

iPads trump oil: Apple is most valuable US company

In this March 25, 2011 file photo, customers wait outside the Apple store in Munich before the start of sales of the iPad2. Investors seem to think you want an iPad more than oil, as Apple Inc. became the most valuable company in the United States, surpassing Exxon Mobil Corp. on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011.

Associated Press
Page 25



Aruba TODAY

On Top Of The News Email: news@arubatoday.com website: www.arubatoday.com Tel: +297 582-7800 Thursday, August 11, 2011

Still missing...

Suspect remains in Aruban Custody

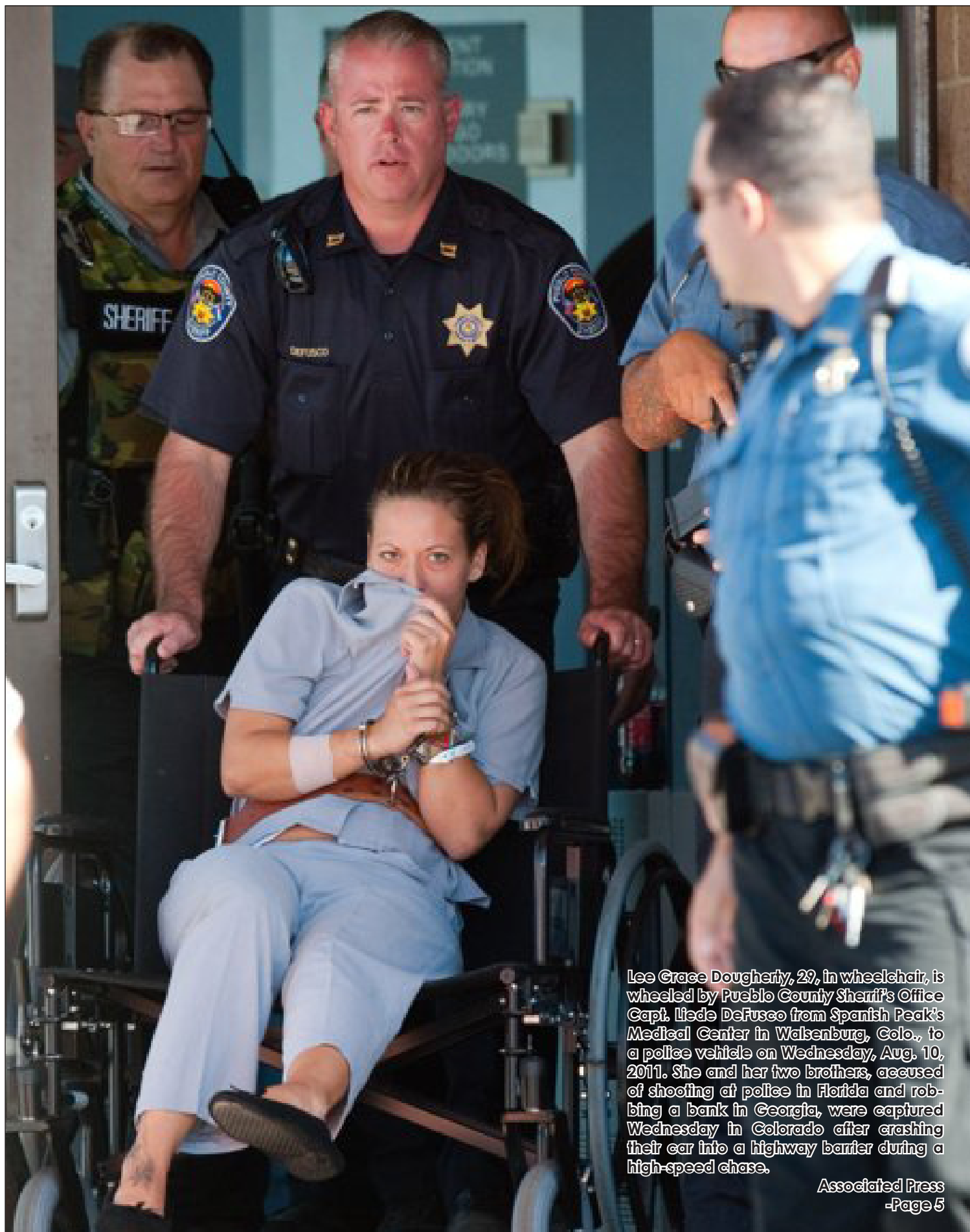
ORANJESTAD - Authorities in Aruba are holding a suspect in the disappearance of an American woman there, the prosecutor's office said. Robyn Gardner, 35, of Maryland, was last seen a week ago -- Tuesday, August 2 -- near Baby Beach on the western tip of the island, said Ann Angela, spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office. After finding no trace of her, authorities stopped their active search for Gardner on Saturday and are now searching "passively," Angela said. Police helicopters and search and rescue officials are keeping their eyes out for any clues to her disappearance, "but it's not an active search anymore," she said.

Angela said her office could only identify the suspect publicly by his initials: GVG. "He is suspected of involvement in the disappearance of Miss Gardner," Angela said, adding that the man is a 50-year-old U.S. citizen.

The prosecutor's office released a statement later Tuesday that provided more detail. GVG told authorities that he had been snorkeling with Gardner behind Nanki Country Club when he signaled to her to swim back, the statement read. When the man reached the beach, the woman was nowhere to be found, he allegedly told them.

"The statements made by the traveling companion led to such questions that on Friday, August 5, 2011 it was decided to detain him for further questioning on the possible drowning of the woman," the prosecutor's office said in the statement, adding that police are investigating the case. □

FBI: Sibling suspects captured in Colorado



Lee Grace Dougherty, 29, in wheelchair, is wheeled by Pueblo County Sheriff's Office Capt. Liede DeFusco from Spanish Peak's Medical Center in Walsenburg, Colo., to a police vehicle on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011. She and her two brothers, accused of shooting at police in Florida and robbing a bank in Georgia, were captured Wednesday in Colorado after crashing their car into a highway barrier during a high-speed chase.

Associated Press
-Page 5

U.S. seeks ideas on renting out its foreclosure inventory

EDWARD WYATT

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WASHINGTON – Uncle Sam wants you – to rent a house from Uncle Sam.

The Obama administration said Wednesday that it was soliciting ideas on how to turn the federal government's inventory of foreclosed houses into rental properties that could be managed by private enterprises or sold in bulk.

The goal, the administration said, is to stabilize neighborhoods where large supplies of empty, foreclosed properties have hurt property values. In addition, the plan is an effort to clear the nation's balance sheet of real estate holdings that, because they have been difficult to sell individually, have hung over the housing market and stunted sales of existing homes and new construction.

The Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Treasury Department are jointly requesting ideas for sales, partnership ventures or other strategies that would help to unload the approximately 250,000 properties owned by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the Federal Housing Administration. Those properties account for about half of all properties that have been foreclosed upon and which are still awaiting resale nationwide.

As it considers the proposals, the government-sponsored enterprises that now own the houses will continue to offer individual properties for sale, Edward J. DeMarco, acting director of the housing finance agency, said Wednesday. But the government believes that given the slow pace of those sales, it must find new ways in which properties can be pooled, sold and privately managed as rentals.

Greater flexibility in disposing of the houses will have other benefits as well, Timothy F. Geithner, the Treasury secretary, said. "Exploring new options for selling these foreclosed properties will help expand access to affordable rental housing, promote private investment in local housing markets and support neighborhood and home price stability," he said in a statement announcing the program.

While home prices have remained depressed since the 2008 financial crisis, rental prices have not come down. The Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University reported in the spring that more than 10 million households – or one-quarter of all renters – pay more than half their income for housing, a record level.

"We have to find and promote new ways to alleviate the strain on the affordable rental market," Shaun Donovan, Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department, said.

John Taylor, president of the National Community Reinvestment Coalition, said in an interview that an added benefit of such a program would be the creation of construction jobs for rehabilitation of the properties.

The Obama administration and Congress have been working on plans to wind down Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which the government took over in 2008 as losses on loans guaranteed by the agencies expanded. Of the 248,000 homes owned by Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac and the FHA at the end of June, 70,000 were listed for sale, said Corinne Russell, a housing finance agency spokeswoman. The remainder were not yet on the market or the agencies had already received an offer from a prospective buyer.

But it is possible that hundreds of thousands of more homes that are in the foreclosure process could come into the possession of the federal government in the next few years, housing experts say. □

To reopen 'so much safer' Statue of Liberty closing again

JAMES BARRON

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Matt Flegenheimer contributed reporting.

After the 9/11 attacks, the federal government closed the Statue of Liberty National Monument, the symbol of a nation's dreams and one of the city's best-known and most-visited tourist attractions. Allowing people inside would be unsafe, the National Park Service said, because rescuers might not be able to get them out in an emergency.

Three years later, the base, the pedestal and the observation deck were reopened after \$6.7 million in improvements to fire and security systems. Five years after that, in 2009, the crown – and the 146 narrow steps to the crown – reopened on the Fourth of July.

Now the statue is closing again.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar says it needs a \$27.25 million renovation for additional safety improvements that he promised in 2009. Officials said the work, which is expected to take a year, could not begin sooner because they did not finish the planning and arrange the financing until

a few months ago.

And, they added, they did not want the statue to be closed on the 125th anniversary of its dedication on Oct. 28. So they will shut it down the next day.

"It's disappointing," said Vince Swift, the president of the Statue of Liberty Club, a nonprofit group, "but if it has to be any length of time, I'm glad it's only a year."

David Luchsinger, superintendent of the monument for the National Park Service, said that the vast majority of visitors – 86 percent – do not bother with the climb inside the statue. "They're going to get the exact same experience" while the statue is closed, he said, because Liberty Island will remain open while the work is going on.

Salazar called the renovations "a major step in bring-



ing a 19th-century icon into the 20th century." The Park Service said the project would involve updating the statue's mechanical and electrical systems, along with its fire-suppression equipment. The two open staircases will be replaced – no longer will they wrap around each other, and one will get walls, a plus for safety. The elevator that runs from the ground floor to the observation deck will also be replaced and will ascend and descend in a new, fire-rated shaft.

"It's safe now, but it will be so much safer when we're done," said Luchsinger, adding that he was "guardedly optimistic" that the work would be completed in time for the 126th anniversary in October 2012.

Luchsinger said he did not believe the closing would affect vendors who de-

pend on the crowds because Liberty Island would still be open. "Most folks just want to come over, walk around and get their picture taken," he said.

Mike Burke, a vice president and chief operating officer of Statue Cruises, which operates ferries from Battery Park in Lower Manhattan and Liberty State Park in Jersey City, echoed that idea, saying the crowds would not thin out – if what is happening to the statue is described a certain way.

"It's a restriction, not a closing," he said. "We are concerned people will not hear the correct message, and they'll focus on the word 'close.' The operative word to not use – please, please, please – is close. They're going to restrict access to the statue's pedestal and the interior. That's the only change. □

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Almost time to change the bulb

BOB TEDESCHI

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You may have heard that the federal government wants to limit your choice of light bulbs, starting in January. If only.

Thanks to regulations taking effect that month under the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, shopping for light bulbs is fast becoming akin to choosing a spouse: The options are almost endless,

of light produced by a conventional 100-watt bulb, but do so with roughly 30 percent less energy, will be eligible for the market. The new law is gradual—in 2013, the rule will be extended to 75-watt bulbs, followed, in 2014, by 60- and 40-watt bulbs—but the point is that nothing is outlawed if it meets the new mandated efficiencies.

What's more, the looming rules have triggered rapid advances in a number of

which they were known. And some bulbs with light-emitting diodes, or LEDs, now cast their light in all directions, not just one.

To help consumers, retailers like the Home Depot and Lowe's are working to simplify shopping, with better merchandising and displays with samples of the forthcoming bulbs. Also, some manufacturers, like Sylvania, Philips and General Electric, are already putting "lighting facts" la-



and the object of your affection might last longer in the house than you.

The misconception about limited choice is, specifically, that the new rules outlaw incandescent lights. But they don't. They just place efficiency standards on incandescents. Starting in January, any bulb that can generate the amount

lighting technologies. Halogens, a type of incandescent that delivers light the way Edison intended, with a tungsten filament, are now available in the standard bulb shape. Compact fluorescent lights, or CFLs, have gotten better at delivering good light quickly, and without the buzzing and flickering for

bulbs on at least a few bulbs, even though new labeling requirements do not take effect until January.

But the changes are still complicated. For instance, instead of categorizing bulbs in terms of watts, a measure of power, shoppers will speak of lumens, a measure of the light that bulbs cast. □

When you can't tell good from bad



MARC LACEY

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PHOENIX — Along with his police-issued pistol and baton, one Phoenix officer has a lightning bolt with him at all times, though it is more ornamental than anything else. Another has a concealed strand of barbed wire. A third has a scorpion, its pincers extended.

Those tattooed images, and numerous others creeping out of officers' shirt sleeves, down their forearms and out onto their hands, have been called into question by a new policy that the Phoenix Police Department has adopted to project a more straight-laced image on the streets. In recent years, many police departments across the country have adopted tattoo restrictions, which the courts have upheld as reasonable. But in Phoenix, the remedy offered to officers with sprawling tattoos — cover them up — is being called impractical because of the intense Ari-

zona heat.

"It's hot out there," said Mark Spencer, the president of the Phoenix Law Enforcement Association, which is challenging the new policy. "Imagine having to wear long sleeves along with body armor, a gun belt and having to get in and out of a police car 50 times every day."

No survey was undertaken to determine how many of the Phoenix Police Department's 1,187 patrol officers are tattooed.

But officials said despite the ubiquity of tattoos on ankles, lower backs, shoulders and other parts of the body, they are still regarded by many as more in line with people who break the law than those who enforce it.

"We're not saying a person with a tattoo is bad," said Sgt. Tommy Thompson, the tattoo-less spokesman for the department. "We just want to project a professional image. We don't want to give anyone any reason to distrust us." □

Chinese investment grows in New York



KIRK SEMPLE

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NEW YORK – Chinese banks have poured more than \$1 billion into real estate loans in New York City in the past year. Investors from China are snapping up luxury apartments and planning to spend hundreds of millions of dollars on commercial and residential projects like Atlantic Yards in Brooklyn. Chinese companies have signed major leases at the Empire State Building and at 1 World Trade Center, the centerpiece of the rebuilding at ground zero.

Investment in the city by companies and entrepreneurs from China has been surging in the last few years, recalling the boom in Japanese investment that swept the re-

gion in the 1980s and helping to buoy the local economy even as the country as a whole struggles to get out of recession. The Chinese investments are occurring with little fanfare, in part because Chinese executives tend to shun publicity. But back home, their government is urging them to invest overseas to diversify

China's foreign-exchange holdings, develop business partnerships and improve the country's leverage in international affairs.

Dan Fasulo, managing director of Real Capital Analytics, which tracks commercial real estate sales, was combing through his files the other day for deals in New York City that involved Chinese investments. As the list grew longer and longer, he paused, a tone of surprise in his voice. "It's truly amazing how much they've been able to do without being highlighted in public," he said. Delegations of Chinese officials and executives have been sweeping through the city, on a nearly weekly basis, assessing the markets, searching for office locations and meeting



prospective partners and clients. Last month, officials and executives from China and the United States filled a ballroom at the Waldorf-Astoria to make deals during a business conference. "Everybody wants to come to New York because New

including the Tappan Zee and Alexander Hamilton Bridges, the No. 7 subway line extension and the \$91 million Metro-North Railroad station at Yankee Stadium. China Construction is a subsidiary of a state-controlled construction company in China. The wave of Japanese investment in the city a generation ago – epitomized by the purchase of a controlling stake in Rockefeller Center by the Mitsubishi Estate Company of Tokyo in 1989 – stirred anxiety and even xenophobia. Some New Yorkers saw it as evidence that the city and the country were losing their dominant positions.

This time, city officials are welcoming Chinese investment as a boon to the local economy. But in a report in May, the Asia Society and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars warned that on a national level, protectionist impulses and anti-China sentiment, particularly in Washington, could scare away investors. Flush with capital from its enormous trade surpluses, China has been on an investment spree, especially in developing countries. While the size of China's investments in the United States has paled in comparison with investments by other countries, it has been growing rapidly. □



York is the starting point for going global," said Xue Ya, president of the China Center, a business and cultural organization that was the first tenant to sign a lease at 1 World Trade Center, where it will occupy six floors. Once established in New York, Xue said, "you are a player." Even one of the region's fastest growing construction companies is Chinese. The company, China Construction America, has won contracts on major public works projects,

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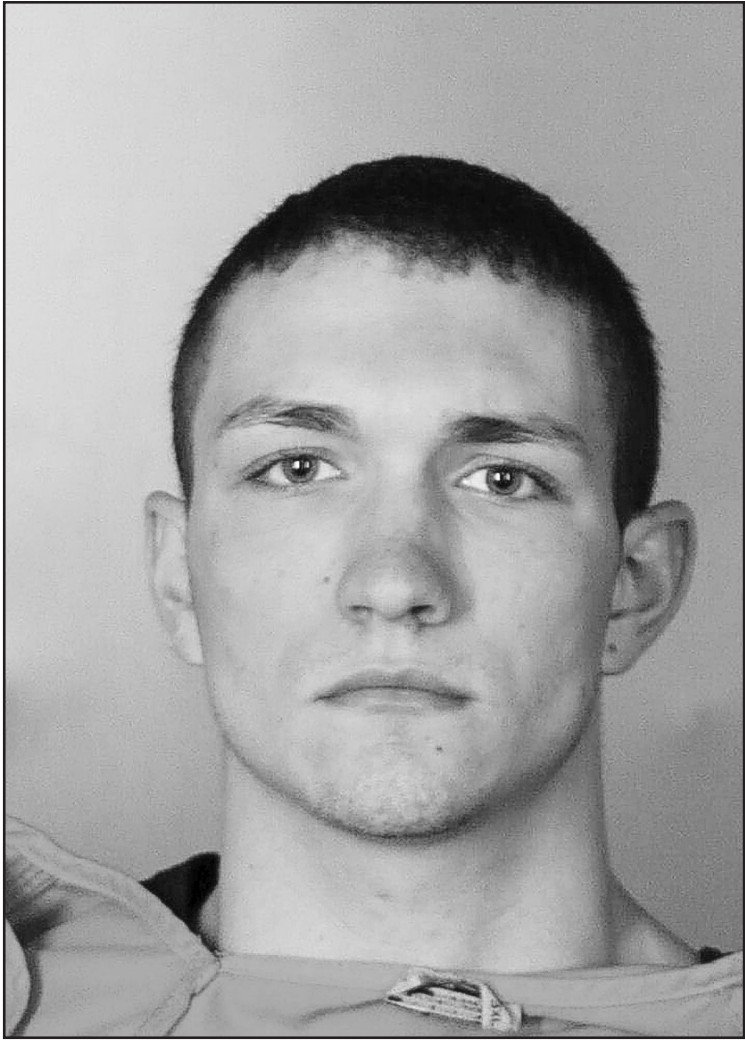
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Fugitive U.S. soldier indicted in Ft. Hood bomb plot



In this undated photo released by the McLennan County Sheriff's Office July 29, 2011 in Waco, Texas, AWOL soldier Pfc. Naser Abdo is shown. Abdo is scheduled for a probable cause hearing Thursday Aug. 4, 2011 in Waco.

Associated Press

WACO, Texas (AP) — A federal grand jury indicted a fugitive soldier Tuesday on three charges in connection with a plot to bomb Fort Hood soldiers in Texas. Pfc. Naser Jason Abdo, 21, was indicted in Waco on charges of possession of an unregistered destructive device, possession of a firearm and possession of ammunition by a fugitive from justice, according to federal prosecutors. He faces up to 10 years in prison on each charge if convicted. He is being held without bond and has yet to enter a plea. His attorney, Keith Dorsett, did not immediately return a telephone call seeking comment Tuesday. Abdo was arrested two weeks ago at a Killeen motel near Fort Hood. Investigators say they found a handgun, an article titled "Make a bomb in the kitchen of your Mom" and the ingredients for an explosive device, including gunpowder, shrapnel and pressure

cookers. An article with that title appears in an al-Qaida magazine. The soldier was approved as a conscientious objector this year after citing his Muslim beliefs, but that status was put on hold after he was charged with possessing child pornography. He went absent without leave from Fort Campbell, Kentucky, last month. A day after his arrest, a defiant Abdo shouted "Nidal Hasan Fort Hood 2009!" as he was led out of a federal courtroom, an apparent homage to the suspect in the worst mass shooting ever on a U.S. military installation. He condemned that attack less than a year ago, but is now accused of trying to carry out another deadly attack. After Abdo was arrested at the motel, he told authorities he planned to make two bombs and detonate them in a restaurant where Fort Hood soldiers eat, according to documents filed in the case. □

FBI: Sibling suspects captured in Colorado

Continued from front

IVAN MORENO
Associated Press
PUEBLO, Colo. (AP) — Three fugitive siblings accused of shooting at police in Florida and robbing a bank in Georgia were captured Wednesday in Colorado after crashing their car into a highway barrier during a high-speed chase. Ryan Edward Dougherty, 21; Dylan Dougherty Stanley, 26; and Lee Grace Dougherty, 29, were targets of a nationwide search after they were accused of the crime spree. Lee Dougherty was shot in the leg after the crash when she pointed a gun at an officer, authorities said. All three suspects were being treated for injuries at a hospital before being transferred to jail.

"Ladies and gentleman, I'm proud to say we won," Pasco County, Florida, Sheriff Chris Nocco said. "We continuously said that if these three fugitives wanted a battle with law enforcement, we would win that battle. And that's what happened today."

He called the Doughertys "very, very dangerous people" and their capture a tremendous relief.

No troopers were hurt during the 20-mile chase on Interstate 25 that at times exceeded 100 mph. Shots were fired from the vehicle during the pursuit near Walsenburg, 145 miles south of Denver, officials said.

Some of Nocco's deputies were expected to fly to Colorado to interview the trio. FBI Special Agent Phil Niedringhaus said the three face federal warrants in Florida and Georgia and that Colorado charges were expected. Officials had not decided how to handle extradition.

The siblings' mother, Barbara Bell of East Palatka, Florida, said she had no comment on the arrests. Last week, she urged the trio to give up before there was bloodshed.

A citizen tipped the Colorado State Patrol about 9 a.m. that the suspects were believed to be in Colorado



This Photo provided by Huerfano Journal, shows a car that was driven by three fugitive siblings crashed on a highway barrier on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011 in Walsenburg, Colo. The trio, Ryan Edward Dougherty, 21; Dylan Dougherty Stanley, 26; and Lee Grace Dougherty, 29, had been targets of a nationwide search after alleged crimes last week in which they were accused of shooting at a police car during a chase and robbing a bank with assault weapons. The three fugitives were captured Wednesday in Colorado after leading officers on a high-speed chase.

Associated Press

City, about 25 miles north of Walsenburg. Their vehicle was later seen at a nearby campground, but the suspects fled before deputies arrived.

A deputy then spotted the car at a gas station, and the chase began. Troopers deployed spiked stop sticks on the interstate, causing the car to roll over and crash into a guardrail, patrol Lt. Col. Anthony Padilla said.

Two of the three suspects, including Lee Dougherty, were arrested at the scene. A third fled on foot into Walsenburg but was arrested without incident by state troopers.

The arrests came a day after the FBI warned citizens the trio had likely been spotted buying camping gear in Colorado Springs. Alerts went out to dozens of law enforcement agencies.

"I was worried about the safety of our troopers," said Colorado State Patrol Chief Col. James M. Wolfenbarger. "To have them shooting at you and continue the pursuit, those men are brave."

It was a similarly dangerous chase in Florida on Aug. 2 that launched the man-

hunt.

An officer tried to pull a car over for speeding northeast of Tampa, Florida. A five-mile chase followed, with speeds up to 100 mph, and at least two people in the fleeing car squeezed off 20 or more gunshots.

A bullet burst the patrol car's front tire and the suspects got away, Nocco said. The officer wasn't injured.

Hours later, about 210 miles north along Interstate 75, three people wearing masks charged into Certus Bank in Valdosta, Georgia. One of the robbers brandished an AK-47 while another was photographed by a security camera waving a machine pistol, the FBI said.

The robbers fired shots into the ceiling then fled with an undisclosed amount of money in a white sedan similar to the Subaru in the Florida chase.

Sheriff's investigators linked the siblings to the case after they found an ankle monitor near the scene of the car chase. Ryan Dougherty had been issued the monitor after being convicted of sending sexually explicit text messages to an 11-year-old girl. □

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Ex-Navy destroyer now East Coast artificial reef

ANGIE YACK

Associated Press

ABOARD THE MV DELAWARE

(AP) — Some sailors who served on the Navy destroyer USS Arthur W. Radford gathered Wednesday to watch it be pushed to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean to become part of a manmadereef.

"It's sad to see it being sunk," said Lee String, 46, of New Jersey, who served on the ship in 1985 as a welder, pipefitter and plumber. "It was once a proud-looking ship, but it's better to see it go to that purpose rather than razor blades."

Officials say the 563-foot ship, which was decommissioned in 2003, is the longest vessel ever sunk as an artificial reef in the Atlantic Ocean.

It took about 3½ hours for the ship to submerge. Water initially entered the ship through the seacocks and started flooding the bottom of the hull. Then the bow went up slightly and the stern quickly flooded as the ship went down.

"I didn't think she was going to do it at first. She definitely took her own sweet time going down," said Scott Horne, 39, of Virginia, who served a tour of duty on the ship. "She always put up a fight for a lot of things when we were under way. She always had her own way of doing things, but the mission always got accomplished. It's the same with this — she put up a fight, and then when she finally decided to let go, she did." Plenty of manmade objects, including several retired New York City subway cars, are already submerged in the Atlantic to

create habitats for sea life and new opportunities for deep-sea anglers and scuba divers.

The Radford's resting spot is about 130 feet of ocean on what is known as the Del-Jersey-Land reef, named for Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland.

"It's been a very quick and relatively inexpensive ship to reef compared to some of the large ships that have been reefed recently," said Jeff Tinsman, reef coordinator with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control. "We are excited today. This is the last step in the process".

Officials chartered a ferry for those who served on the destroyer, journalists and others to watch the sinking. Many of the more than 200 people who took up the



In this photo provided by the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, the decommissioned destroyer USS Radford is towed down the Delaware River shipping channel between Delaware's and New Jersey's coasts on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011. State officials say the Radford is scheduled to be sunk tomorrow as an artificial reef in the Atlantic about 26 miles off the coasts of Delaware, New Jersey and Maryland. They say the former destroyer, was cleaned and prepared for sinking at a Philadelphia shipyard.

Associated Press

offer were wearing hats or shirts with the destroyer's name. Some carried books

of photos that had been taken aboard the Radford. The ship, named for the

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff under President Dwight Eisenhower, was launched March 1, 1975, and commissioned two years later. Over the next 26 years, it visited Venezuela, Panama, Argentina, Brazil, Senegal, Oman, Bahrain, the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, Italy, Turkey and the Azores islands off the coast of Portugal. One former sailor who watched the sinking planned to visit the ship underwater.

Douglas Warner, 48, of Virginia, just retired after 30 years in Navy, including two years aboard the Radford as a combat systems officer.

"Being a diver myself, I'm looking forward to hopefully next year coming back up here and being able to dive on her," he said. □

Feds plan to spend \$100M for Everglades

ANGIE YACK

Associated Press

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Political dysfunction fuels Italy financial crisis



FILE - In this Friday, Aug. 5, 2011 file photo, Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi, right, and Finance minister Giulio Tremonti talk during a press conference in Rome's Palazzo Chigi government headquarters. The two leaders charged with navigating Italy through one of the worst financial crises in its history are politically weakened, and the government they lead is increasingly fragile. Never was this more clear than last week, when Premier Silvio Berlusconi and Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti, looking like chastened school boys, announced Italy would balance its budget a year earlier than previously announced, after receiving detailed instructions from the European Central Bank.

(AP Photo/Andrew Medichini, File)

By **COLLEEN BARRY** AP Business Writer
MILAN (AP) — As international anxiety mounted this summer over Italy's staggering national debt,

Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and his finance minister were embroiled in their own troubles. Berlusconi was weakened by electoral defeats, government in-

fighting, criminal trials and a huge court ruling against his family's investment business over corruption in a 20-year-old business deal. Finance Minister Giulio Tremonti was tarnished by revelations that he paid for a Rome apartment in cash — a red flag for tax evasion in Italy. Berlusconi stayed virtually silent as uncertainty roiled Italy's stock market and the cost of borrowing rose to dangerous levels.

He said at one point he was keeping mum because he didn't want his personal issues to agitate the markets. Meanwhile, a weakened Tremonti appeared unable to push through necessary reforms. Finally, the two men were forced last week to announce a pledge to balance the budget in 2013, a year earlier than planned, in exchange for a massive European Central Bank program to drive down interest rates on Italian bonds by buying them on the open market. The government says it wants broad social consensus on the inevitable sacrifices triggered by austerity rigorous enough to placate the ECB. But the union leaders and industrialists emerging from a meeting with Berlusconi and Tremonti in Rome on Wednesday night said it left them clueless about the government's plans. Emma Marcegaglia, head

of the influential industrialists lobby Confindustria, also told reporters that union and business leaders at the meeting urged the government to act "quickly and well" to devise a "rigorous and fair" plan. Participants said the Berlusconi's Cabinet would meet on Aug. 16 or 18 to approve urgent measures. The government made no immediate comment on the meeting. Tremonti was to address lawmakers Thursday about the government's strategy. Italy's history of managing its high national debt has long kept market anxieties at bay and borrowing costs down.

The country's slide to the brink of economic disaster this month has been a dramatic illustration, experts say, that political dysfunction and the shortcomings of Italy's scandal-tainted leaders are fueling its crisis as much as fundamental economic weakness. "It is a question of credibility. The markets feel this government is not credible," said Roberto D'Alimonte, a

political science professor at Rome's LUISS University. The perception is growing, even among Berlusconi's base, analysts say, that he is more preoccupied with his own personal problems — which include a trial for allegedly having paid for sex with an underage teen. Both he and the Moroccan teen, who was 17 during the period that she acknowledges meeting Berlusconi, deny having had sex. International hopes came to rest on Tremonti, widely lauded as the figure who had helped Italy survive the 2008 financial crisis by keeping a tight rein on spending. But the former accountant-turned-politician has been politically weakened by a corruption scandal involving an aide, followed by revelations that he was paying cash for his share of an apartment that he and the aide used as a Rome pied-a-terre. Tremonti is not the subject of any criminal probe, and he has acknowledged that he should have handled his housing arrangements better. □

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Airstrike kills insurgents who downed helicopter

By **HEIDI VOGT and LOLITA C. BALDOR** -

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) —

An airstrike by international forces has killed the Taliban insurgents responsible for the downing of a U.S. helicopter this weekend in which 38 U.S. and Afghan troops died, including the militant who launched the fatal rocket-propelled grenade, the military claimed Wednesday.

The claim of success comes amid fears that as U.S. troops begin to leave Afghanistan, the country is far from stable and remains deadly for those forces who remain.

As U.S. troops thin out, special operations forces like those that died in Saturday's helicopter crash are likely to make up a greater part of the American force in Afghanistan.

F-16 fighter jets killed the insurgents responsible on Monday, according to the top American commander in Afghanistan, Marine Corps Gen. John Allen.

The military provided few details to back up the

claim, but Allen said he was confident the airstrike killed fewer than 10 insurgents involved in the attack on the U.S. Chinook helicopter.

"All of these operations generate intelligence," Allen said, including about those who fled the site of the crash.

"We tracked them as we would in the aftermath of any operation, and we dealt with them with a kinetic strike, and in the aftermath of that we have achieved certainty that they, in fact, were killed in that strike," Allen said. He spoke by video from his Kabul headquarters.

In a separate statement, the military said the strike killed a Taliban leader and the insurgent who fired the rocket-propelled grenade at the helicopter. That statement also cited intelligence gathered on the ground. It did not provide further details.

"This does not ease our loss, but we must and we will continue to relentlessly pursue the enemy," Allen said.

The crash was the deadliest single loss for U.S. forces in



A Marine carry team moves a transfer case containing the remains of Sgt. Adan Gonzales Jr. Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. According to the Department of Defense, Gonzales, 28, of Bakersfield, Calif., died Aug. 7, 2011 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Steve Ruark)



Transfer cases containing the remains of Sgt. Joshua J. Robinson, left case, and Sgt. Adan Gonzales Jr. sit on a loader during a prayer Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011 at Dover Air Force Base, Del. According to the Department of Defense, Robinson, 29, of Omaha, Neb., and Gonzales, 28, of Bakersfield, Calif., died Aug. 7, 2011 while conducting combat operations in Helmand province, Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Steve Ruark)

special operations raids captured 2,941 insurgents and killed 834, twice as many as during the same time period last year, according to NATO.

This weekend's deaths are a reminder of the danger faced on such missions. Overall, at least 368 international troops have died so far this year, including 273 Americans.

Allen also said that after the beginning of the year, he will likely begin shifting more forces to the east, where coalition troops are facing a stubborn insurgency. Until then, he said, the military will continue in the south.

"We're going to attempt to disrupt the enemy safe havens throughout the winter, the opportunity for him to rest and refit," Allen said. "And then in the spring and in the summer, we will continue to disrupt the enemy and then spend a particular amount of attention in the east."

But the fight is getting more complicated as international troops try to shift more control over Afghan forces. Operations often seem to be "Afghan-led" in name only and international troops have repeatedly clashed with their Afghan partners. There have been a host of turncoat shootings by Afghan soldiers of international troops this year.

Officials said Wednesday that firefights mistakenly broke out between NATO forces and Afghan police in two parts of the country overnight. In one firefight, in southern Kandahar province, four Afghan police officers were killed.

Coalition forces have finished their investigation at the helicopter crash site in Wardak province and have all left the area.

Some of the helicopter parts and wreckage were taken away by aircraft and others were taken away on trucks, the coalition said.

While officials believe the helicopter was shot down by a rocket-propelled grenade, Allen said the military's investigation into the crash will also review whether small arms fire or other causes contributed to the crash. □

the nearly 10-year Afghan war.

The military is still seeking the top insurgent leader that troops were going after in Saturday's mission, Allen said.

Allen defended the decision to send in the Chinook loaded with special operations forces to aid Army Rangers pursuing insurgents in a dangerous region of eastern Afghanistan.

"The fact that we lost this aircraft is not ... a decision point as to whether we'll use this aircraft in the future," Allen said. "It's not uncommon at all to use this aircraft on our special missions."

The team aboard the helicopter included 22 Navy SEAL personnel, three Air Force airmen, a five-member

Army air crew and a military dog, along with seven Afghan commandos and an Afghan interpreter, according to officials.

Allen agreed that as U.S. troops begin to pull out of Afghanistan, such counterterrorism missions — often by special operations forces — will increase and become prominent. He spoke from Kabul to reporters at the Pentagon.

It is generally expected that there will also be special operations forces in Afghanistan well after 2014, when NATO hopes to hand off responsibility for security to Afghan forces.

Afghanistan has more U.S. special operations troops, about 10,000, than any other theater of war. From April to July this year, 2,832



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NATO: Libya airstrike killed troops, not civilians

By RAMI AL-SHAHEIBI and SLOBODAN LEKIC

Associated Press

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP) —

NATO and Libyan officials both refuted damaging claims Wednesday in the 6-month old civil war, with NATO insisting its airstrike killed soldiers and mercenaries, not 85 civilians, and the state-run TV apparently showing Moammar Gadhafi's youngest son alive to counter rebel allegations of his death.

NATO spokesman Col. Roland Lavoie said the Libyan claim of civilian casualties in an airstrike near the western front-line town of Zlitan "was not corroborated by available factual information at the site."

NATO aircraft hit a staging base and military accommodation 10 kilometers (6 miles) south of Zlitan, Lavoie said from the operational command in Naples, Italy. Four buildings and nine vehicles within the compound were struck with precision-guided munitions, he said. "With our surveillance capabilities, we monitored this military compound very carefully before striking it," Lavoie said. "A number of

military or mercenary casualties were expected due to the nature of the activity we monitored."

"Our assessment, based

old Khamis Gadhafi, who commands one of the best trained and equipped units in the Libyan military.

Rebels had claimed Friday



This video image broadcast Wednesday Aug. 10, 2011 by Libyan TV purports to show Moammar Gadhafi's youngest son Khamis Gadhafi, left, who commands one of the best trained and equipped units in the Libyan military, visiting an injured man in a hospital in Tripoli, Libya on Tuesday Aug. 9, 2011. Libyan state television on Wednesday broadcast images of a man it said was Moammar Gadhafi's youngest son, footage that looks to undercut rebel claims of his death at a time when the opposition is showing signs of strain and disarray six months into its battle with the Libyan leader.

(AP Photo/Libyan TV)

on the level of destruction of the buildings, confirms the likelihood of military and mercenary casualties," he said.

Meanwhile, Libyan state television broadcast images of a man it said 27-year-

that Khamis Gadhafi was killed in another airstrike in Zlitan. The regime dismissed the allegation and said the rebels were only trying to deflect attention from the killing last week of the opposition's military

commander, possibly by other rebels.

The images on television showed the son at a Tripoli hospital visiting people wounded in a NATO airstrike and said it was on Tuesday. If genuine, it would be the first time he has been seen in public since the reports of his death.

State television also showed funerals for dozens of civilians it were killed in the NATO airstrike near Zlitan, about 90 miles (140 kilometers) southeast of Tripoli.

The channel has been airing images in black and white to honor a three-day mourning period for the 85 people the government said lost their lives in Zlitan.

A day earlier, state television ran images of Libyans rummaging through the rubble of buildings the government said were destroyed by the airstrike. They were shown digging out body parts and piling dead babies in sacks in the back of ambulances. It said 33 children and 32 women were among those killed.

Also Wednesday, rebel fighters moved closer to Libyan coastal towns held

by Moammar Gadhafi, scoring another significant gain in an offensive launched over the weekend, a spokesman said.

By sundown, rebel fighters had reached positions 12 miles (20 kilometers) south of the coastal town of Zawiyah and 3 miles (5 kilometers) south of the town of Surman, said Abdulsalam Sloga, a rebel spokesman in Libya's Nafusa mountain range, southwest of the capital of Tripoli. Fighters also moved forward on the road to Aziziya, a town south of Tripoli, he said.

Reaching the coast near Tripoli would mark a significant breakthrough in the civil war, which has been deadlocked for long periods. Rebels control eastern Libya, as well as the Nafusa mountains and the port city of Misrata in the west. Gadhafi has been hanging onto the rest of the territory. Earlier Wednesday, five rebels were killed when regime forces attacked the rebel-held town of Bir Ghanam, Sloga said. Rebels pushed back Gadhafi's fighters and from Bir Ghanam advanced toward the coastal towns. □

Tunisia trial restarts for 23 allies of Ben Ali

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — Lawyers representing 23 relatives and collaborators of Tunisia's ousted president argued Wednesday that the legal proceedings against their clients were riddled with nullifying defects and urged judges to drop the charges.

The 23 were facing charges including illegally possessing foreign currency, jewelry trafficking and attempting to flee the country.

If convicted, they could be sentenced to from six months to five years in prison, as well as hefty fines.

The defendants were detained at the Tunis airport as they attempted to board a private plane on Jan. 14, the day ex-President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled to Saudi Arabia amid nationwide demonstrations.

The defendants included



two sisters of Ben Ali's wife, Leila Trabelsi, as well as her nephew.

Ben Ali's security chief, Ali Seriati — whose role in the former president's flight remains murky — was facing charges including falsification of passports.

His lawyer maintained his innocence, alleging Seriati had been "the victim of an arbitrary arrest."

The proceedings restarted on Wednesday after judges granted the defense's request for two postponements.

A verdict is expected Friday.

Ben Ali himself faces more than 100 charges in civil and military cases, some of which could result in a death sentence.

A Lebanese lawyer for the former Tunisian strongman has maintained his client is being unfairly targeted. □

Slaying of 3 Muslims lays bare divisions

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, England

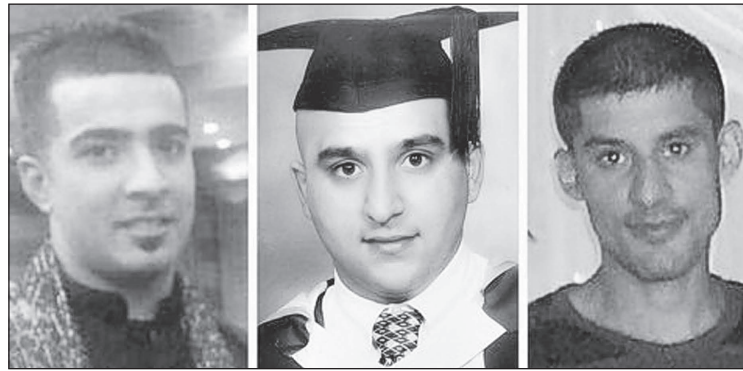
(AP) — With police nowhere to be seen, the Muslims of Dudley Road armed themselves with bricks and stones, clubs and cricket bats to fend off carloads of marauding gangs.

Their vigilante stand in Birmingham's west end saved a humble row of family-run shops and a red-brick mosque from the looters' grasp — but at a terrible cost.

A carload of rioters sped into a fleeing crowd of shop defenders, witnesses said, hurling three young men into the air and killing amateur boxer Haroon Jahan, 21, and brothers Shazzad Ali, 30, and Abdul Musavir, 31.

"We all had stones in our hands. But we had no defense to stop a car. They revved their engines and drove right at us as fast as they could," Mohammed Ibrahim, 23, told The Associated Press. "These black men deliberately tried to kill us all."

Wednesday's 1 a.m. slaughter has laid bare racial tensions underlying this week's riots in Birmingham, Britain's second-largest city and its most ethnically diverse. A fifth of the city's 1 million "Brummies" are Muslims, most commonly of Pakistani origin. About 7 percent are black, mostly Caribbean, in background.



In this combo image of undated photographs provided by family on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011, from left, Haroon Jahan, Shazzad Ali and Abdul Musavir who were killed when a car crashed into them on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011, as they protected their community from looters in Birmingham, England. British police launched a murder investigation into the deaths of three men hit by a car in Birmingham on Tuesday, Aug. 9 who residents said were members of Birmingham's South Asian communities who had been patrolling their neighborhood to keep it safe from looters.

(AP Photo/PA)

While the riots that have swept England this week have involved looters of every creed and hue, the street anarchy also sometimes has exposed the racial fault lines that run beneath the poorest urban quarters.

Resident after resident of Dudley Road and its surrounding Winson Green district commented pointedly to The AP that the attackers were black and accused them of targeting Muslim shops.

The passions echo street-fights from previous years, such as in 2005, when a neighboring Birmingham district suffered two nights of violence between Caribbean and Asian gangs over unsubstantiated rumors that a gang of Paki-

stani men had raped a 14-year-old Jamaican girl. Two men were stabbed to death, firefighters faced machete-wielding mobs, and Muslim graves were desecrated during those clashes. The west side also suffered riots in 1981, 1985 and 1991 fueled by minority hatred of white police and black resentment of the Asians' dominant position as shopkeepers.

"We'll hunt down these black men, cut off their heads and feed them to our dogs," said Amir Hawid, 20, who lives just a hundred yards (meters) from the killing scene and heard the screams of the crowd at the moment of impact.

As forensics specialists combed the bloodied, rock-strewn pavement

for clues, hundreds of local Muslims and Sikhs — some wearing ceremonial daggers at their waists — packed into a community hall Wednesday to confront three white police commanders who had come seeking to calm tensions. Twice as many Muslims, many in robes and kufi caps, stood outside.

Speaker after speaker complained that they had pleaded by phone for police protection the previous night, when black gangs raided local markets and chased bar staff onto the roof of one pub, yet police failed to respond. Some argued that the police had warned them not to attempt to defend their own streets, yet had offered no alternative.

The three dead men "did nothing wrong! They died because they were doing the job of protecting our community. The job that you lot should have been doing!" one speaker shouted, jabbing an accusatory finger at the police panel. Detective Superintendent Richard Baker, commander of the 60-strong police team hunting the killers, said they already had arrested the suspected driver and 11 others potentially linked to the shop attacks on Dudley Road. He pleaded for locals to overcome their antipathy to the police, give eyewitness statements and hand over ama-

teur camera footage.

"I will deploy whatever it takes to get justice for this community," Baker said above a din of muttered heckles and shouted accusations, dozens of men trying to speak at once.

Baker and the local commander, Superintendent Sean Russell, defended their force's response to the killings — which Russell admitted he could see from the police control center on a closed-circuit surveillance camera — because gangs were attacking shops in the city center. That triggered angry cries that police cared more for protecting downtown shopping centers than Muslim communities.

Russell said it took officers 10 minutes to arrive; locals insisted it was a half-hour and the officers arrived in riot gear thinking the Muslim crowd might pose a threat. The officers said they had to be cautious.

Afterward, a chastened Baker said it had been the toughest community meeting of his life. In quiet one-to-one conversations, he offered his cell phone number to local residents and pleaded for them to find eyewitnesses.

"We really want to help you, but you need to help us too," he told one man, who said he'd been afraid to speak up and express moderate views during the meeting. □

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Britain's rioters: young, poor and disillusioned

By MEERA SELVA and PAISLEY DODDS

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Young rioters clogged Britain's courthouses Wednesday, each one painting a bleak picture of a lost generation: a 15-year-old Ukrainian whose mother died, a 17-year-old who followed his cousin into the mayhem, an 11-year-old gangster arrested for stealing a garbage can.

Britain is bitterly divided on the reasons behind the riots — some blame the unrest on opportunistic criminality, others say conflicting economic policies and punishing government spending cuts have deepened inequalities in the country's most deprived areas.

Many of the youths themselves struggle to find any one plausible answer, but a widespread sense of alienation emerges from their tales.

"Nobody is doing nothing for us — not the politicians, not the cops, no one," a 19-year-old who lives near Tottenham, the blighted London neighborhood where the riots started. He only gave his nickname "Freddy," because he took part in the looting and was scared of facing prosecution; he was not among the youths in court.

Britain also has one of the highest violent crime rates in the EU and alarmingly high youth unemployment — roughly 18 percent of youths between 16 and 24 are jobless and nearly half of all young black youths are out of work.

As the government battles colossal government debt with harsh welfare cuts that promise to make the futures of these youths even bleaker, some experts say it's blinkered to believe the riots have only been a random outburst of violence unrelated to the current economic crisis.

"There's a fundamental disconnect with a particular section of young Britain and sections of the political establishment," said Matthew Goodwin, a politics professor at University of Nottingham.



FILE -Youths throw bricks at police in this Sunday, Aug. 7, 2011 photo during unrest in Enfield, north London. Nearly 1,200 people have been arrested since the riots erupted Saturday, mostly poor youths from a broad section of Britain's many races and ethnicities. Britain is bitterly divided on the reasons behind the riots — some blame the unrest on opportunistic criminality, while others say the country's economic policies and cuts have deepened inequalities in the most deprived areas. (AP Photo/Karel Prinsloo, File)

"The argument that this doesn't have anything to do with expenditure cuts or economics doesn't stand up to the evidence. If that's true, then what we have here are hundreds of young, crazed kids simply acting irrationally. I don't think that's the case."

Nearly 1,200 people have been arrested since the riots erupted Saturday, mostly poor youths from a broad section of Britain's many races and ethnicities. It's unclear what role racial tensions have played in the riots, if any.

In Tottenham, most residents are white but blacks from Africa or the Caribbean account for around a quarter of the ethnic mix. It's also home to Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Asian immigrants. The rage has appeared to cut across ethnic lines, with poverty as the main common denominator.

But there's a history of racial tension in many of these neighborhoods, and the riots themselves were triggered by the fatal police shooting of a black man in Tottenham.

In 1985, the neighborhood

was home to the Broadwater Farm riot, an event seared in the memories of many of the rioters' parents. Back then, violence exploded area when a black woman died from a stroke during a police search. The area remains a hotbed of ethnic tension: In the past year, police have logged some 100 racist or religion based hate crimes. Other social problems afflict the places where rioting erupted: high teen pregnancy rates, gun crime and drug trafficking. Daniel Cavaglieri, one of the lawyers for a 17-year-old black teenager who appeared with dozens of others at Highbury Magistrates Court on Wednesday, said the youth was studying mechanics and trying to finish school. He was accused of following his older cousin into looting a clothing shop, and charged with intent to steal.

"His mother is furious he was out and about at that time. She genuinely thought he was at a friend's house," Cavaglieri told the court. "He's going to be grounded."

Britain's Conservative-led government is implementing painful austerity measures in an attempt to get the country's finances in order. Prime Minister David Cameron has pledged 80 billion pounds (\$129 billion) of spending cuts and 30 billion pounds in extra taxes to trim Britain's huge deficit, swollen after the government spent billions bailing

out foundering banks.

The plans to cut services from welfare to education sparked violent protests last year, as students took to the streets to demonstrate against the tripling of university fees. The government is also cutting civil service jobs and benefits, raising the state pension age from 65 to 66, hiking the amount public sector employees contribute to pensions and reducing their retirement payouts.

The austerity measures will also slash housing benefit payments used to subsidize rents for the low-paid, threatening to price tens of thousands of poor families out of their homes and force them toward the fringes of the country's capital.

Economists at the Centre for Economic Policy Research say such cuts promise more unrest. Most of Britain's deepest cuts haven't even come yet.

"There's usually something that sparks these things off," said Hans-Joachim Voth, a research fellow at the center. "The question is why is it that in 90 percent of these cases that nothing happens? Why is it that some places just end up like a tinder box?"

An 11-year-old boy was among one of the youngest to appear in court on Wednesday. □

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Nurturing weird families in Tennessee



JULIE BOSMAN

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SEWANEE, Tenn. — When writing his first novel two years ago, Kevin Wilson didn't have to look far for inspiration. It was running back and forth above his study. His toddler son, Griff, was often up until 1 a.m., exhausting Wilson, and his wife, Leigh Anne Couch, a poet, as they struggled through the inaugural days of parenthood.

"That first year was really difficult for us," said Wilson, a 33-year-old with large,

wide-set blue eyes and a soft Southern accent, sitting on the sofa in their post-and-beam cabin in rural Tennessee last week. "Trying to get him to go to sleep, trying to get him to eat — it just felt like everything we were doing, he was upset with us. And I started thinking of what it means to be a parent and what it means to be a child."

So Wilson created a fictional family that he decided was far more dysfunctional than his could ever be. "The Family Fang," published this

week by Ecco, tells the story of Caleb and Camille Fang, parents and avant-garde performance artists who are dedicated to pulling public stunts with the help of their sometimes-unwilling offspring, Annie and Buster, who are considered anonymous pieces of the artwork and referred to as Child A and Child B.

Somehow the Fang children survive it all. Annie grows up to be an Oscar-nominated actress in Los Angeles. Buster is a fledgling novelist who makes his living writing articles for a men's magazine called Potent. Then a series of mortifying missteps involving booze, a gun that shoots potatoes and topless pictures on the Internet drive both siblings back to their parents' home in Tennessee, where they fall under the Fang spell again.

The novel has attracted early praise for its quirky setup, memorable characters and humorous despair laced throughout. Reviewing the book in The New York Times last week Janet Maslin wrote that Wilson "has created a memorable shorthand for describing parent-child deceptions and for ways in which creative art and destructive behavior intersect."

Ecco, an imprint of HarperCollins, also released Wilson's first book, "Tunneling to the Center of the Earth," a well-received short-story collection. But the publisher believes "The Family Fang" has the potential to be a commercial success: It has already gone back to press



three times, and there are 23,000 copies in print.

Preparing to publicize his book on a 12-city tour has sent Wilson, an assistant professor in the English department at the University of the South, into a state of reflection on his own family. Like the Fangs, who created a sort of powerful intimacy that didn't allow outsiders in, Wilson spent his childhood in Tennessee in a close bond with his sister, Kristen, and his parents, an insurance salesman and a nurse who favored an unstructured approach to child rearing. In many ways, he said, his parents treated them like adults, a blurring of the parent-child role that is explored in the book.

"They created this kind of world that was just the four of us, and they allowed us to be weird, as weird as we wanted to be without making us feel like we were strange," he said. "And so I thought about a lot of that with the Fangs. The weirdness exists, but you don't comment on it. It's just the world that you've made for

yourself. And it's the same thing that Leigh Anne and I are doing with Griff, trying to build this weird world for him and see what happens."

The family lives outside Sewanee on the edge of a one-acre pond in a thicket of woods teeming with rabbits, bats and deer. Inside the house signs of Griff, 3, were everywhere: a basket of toys near the wood-burning fireplace, a child-size canvas swing from Ikea hanging from the ceiling and a remote-controlled train set taking up most of Couch's office upstairs, where she writes her poetry on a drafting desk in the corner.

Most of the writing of "The Family Fang" was done downstairs in Wilson's study, where he routinely sat on a rug to type, surrounded by hundreds of comic books that he has collected since he was a child and tiny action figurines that are off limits to Griff. When writing, Wilson could not tune out the sounds of his wife and Griff upstairs. □

FDA approves Gilead's once-daily HIV pill

WASHINGTON — Regulators approved a once-daily HIV pill by Gilead Sciences Inc, giving a new source of revenue to the leading maker of HIV medicines as it faces expiring patents.

The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday gave a nod to the pill Complera for patients who have not received prior treatment for the virus that causes AIDS. The \$1,705-a-month drug combines Gilead's Truvada with Johnson & Johnson's Edurant, which received FDA approval in May. Gilead currently sells another once-

daily pill, Atripla, that combines Truvada with Bristol-Myers Squibb Co's Sustiva, but the California drug-maker earns no profit from the Bristol drug and all of the Atripla components lose patent protection in the next few years.

Under the deal with J&J, Gilead would keep up to 30 percent of what it will make off the Edurant component in Complera.

The company's sales of AIDS drugs have benefited from new U.S. health guidelines calling for wider screening for the disease and its earlier treatment, but the magni-

tude of growth has slowed and the company is under pressure to bring new drugs to the market.

U.S. regulators first rejected Gilead's application for Complera in January, citing insufficient information. Shares of Gilead rose 2.6 percent to \$36.26 on Wednesday in after-hours trading on the Nasdaq after closing at \$35.34.

Also on Wednesday, the company said it has resolved all issues raised in an FDA warning letter from September. The FDA at the time raised concerns about manufacturing problems and product quality at a

San Dimas, California, plant where Gilead makes many of its drugs.

Now, the company's response and actions have "sufficiently addressed" FDA's concerns, Gilead said. Gilead last month became the first drugmaker to sign up for a new patent pool, where it plans to share intellectual property rights on its medicines with a goal of making treatments more widely available to the poor.

Around 33 million people worldwide have the human immunodeficiency virus, HIV, that causes AIDS, most living in Africa and Asia. □



Aruba in Style Event to Take Place in Fall of 2011

New York, NY – IMG Fashion and the Aruba Tourism Authority, along with its partner the Aruba Fashion Group, recently announced a three year partnership for IMG to consult on the creation and execution of Aruba in Style – a yearly fashion, entertainment and lifestyle event to take place on the island of Aruba beginning in the Fall of 2011. “Aruba already offers some of the best designer retail offerings in the Caribbean, and we feel strongly that this new partnership with IMG and the launch of the Aruba in Style event will help to elevate the island's reputation as a mecca for fashion and style,” said Mr. Otmar Oduber, Aruba's Minister of Tourism, Transportation and Labor Affairs. “One of our top goals in increasing tourism to Aruba is to bring more high-profile events to the island, such as Aruba in Style, which will generate increased awareness of Aruba as a chic and sophisticated vacation destination.” Aruba in Style will be a mix of fashion shows, parties, presentations and shopping at one of the Caribbean's most exciting destinations.

Taking place in various locations around the island, the event will bring together designers, celebrities, models, fashionable consumers and the media to experience in-season resort, ready to wear and bridal collections in distinct, intimate parties as well as over the top extravaganzas.

Activities will include unique in store shopping experiences, open to the public events and exclusive invitation-only soirees. Aruba hosts one of the region's best retail mixes along with unique destination hotels and resorts and,



of course, some of the best beaches in the Caribbean. Its unique topography, fantastic restaurants and friendly, diverse population add to its charm and sophistication.

“On behalf of Aruba Fashion Group we are excited to be working together with IMG and our principal sponsor, the Government of Aruba and the Aruba Tourism Authority,” said Damilice Mansur, Principal of the Aruba Fashion Group along with Ronchi de Cuba and Evelin Weaver. “We are sure we will build, with these partners, what will become the most fashionable event in the region highlighting Aruba as the leading fashion and entertainment destination in the Caribbean.”

IMG, a leader in the management, production and creation of global fashion platforms, will bring its expertise in establishing an events global presence as well as industry and designer contacts to the event.

“This is a tremendous opportunity for us,” said Peter Levy, SVP and Managing Director, IMG Fashion Worldwide. “We have often looked towards this region

as a place where a strong, global fashion event could take place and were lucky enough to find creative thinkers in the Aruba Tour-

ism Authority and Aruba Fashion Group who shared our vision for something both sophisticated, cool, and distinctly Aruban.”

Details on the event, including participating designers, models and celebrities, will be announced in the coming year. □

Caribbean Palm Village guests honored by Aruba



NOORD - Mr. Benjamin Logan and Ms. Salome Logan were recently honored as Goodwill Ambassadors due to their 21 consecutive visits to Aruba. Ms. Marouska Heyliger representing the Aruba Tourism Authority conducted the ceremony held at the Caribbean Palm Village. According to Brother and Sister from Rockaway Beach, New York, the main reason they return is Aruba's spectacular beaches and Friendly People. □



The Bottega Gold family grows

The Bottega Gold keeps on meeting great success with customers all over the world. Beyond the traditional size bottle, the magnum and the jeroboam, Distilleria Bottega increases its Gold family presenting the newly born Birillo, a mini bottle of 20 cl created to target a young audience for distribution in nightlife: discos, clubs and bars. Fashion and trendy, in shimmering gold and easy to carry around.

Known for being always on the cutting edge in terms of research and design, Distilleria Bottega will be also

presenting the brand new label of the full range of the gilded bottles giving it a new look and charm.

Distilleria Bottega has also the honour to sponsor, with its Bottega Gold, the Heineemann Golf Tournament at the Golf Old Course in Mandelieu.

Il Vino dei Poeti Gold is a special sparkling wine from Glera grapes, which features an exceptionally aromatic bouquet. This wine comes from a selection of grapes picked in the Prosecco area of the Treviso province, located in Eastern Veneto, about

25 miles from Venice. In this area, which has a special vine growing vocation, the soil guarantees a high concentration of mineral salts. The exposure of the vineyards leads to a strong temperature difference between day and night, thus facilitating the slow maturing of the grapes.

The result is an enrichment of the fruity bouquet, which is emphasized by the sparkling of the fresh must, giving the wine an intriguing symphony of tastes of Golden apple, pineapple and mango.

The gilding of the bottle,

besides its aesthetic impact, protects the wine against any source of light, keeping the features of the Prosecco unchanged for over 12 months.

The packaging comes complete with a special label shape which is reminiscent of the foam coming up from wine that has just been uncorked.

Il Vino dei Poeti Gold is distributed in duty free shops and in the best wine shops. This wine, good as an aperitif as well as with cocktails, it goes particularly well with starters, first courses, fish and poultry. □

Enjoying the Best of the Best of Aruba

Screaming Eagle welcomes California girls



EAGLE BEACH – Beautiful California girls Yolonda, Liz, Bella, Andrea, and Shantel were spotted dining at Aruba's most exotic restaurant on the island "Screaming Eagle", recently recognized by the Discovery Channel as "the Best of the Best of Aruba".

They enjoyed a breathtaking experience of private dining on canopy beds strewn with white pillows, bathed in soft romantic lighting, and draped with white chiffon. The ladies kicked off their shoes and enjoyed sumptuous dishes laid out on wooden bed trays.



Screaming Eagle perfectly matches South Beach lounge décor with ultra-chic French fusion cuisine complemented by a well-

stocked wine cellar and an equally impressive bar list of innovative cocktails from around the globe. While also paying tribute to the

classics, the menu delivers unusual food combinations with never-before pairings, infusing nightly dinner rituals with pleasant elements of

surprise. Chef Erwin Hüsken has received great praise for his artistry in the kitchen from world-renowned chefs. And the recently introduced flambé cart, positioned table-side for a dramatic preparation, makes everything from Dover sole to Crêpes Suzette even more spectacular.

The California girls are pictured with Screaming Eagle Co-owner Marcel van Berkum and Chef Erwin. Tonight the lovely ladies will continue their barefoot dining at the Screaming Eagle's sister restaurant The Flying Fishbone in Savaneta. □

Eman looking to pull Team Aruba into top 8

UNION, S.C. - As the ADRL heads toward their final events of the season, each point is becoming weightier. Trevor Eman and the Aruba.com team are a mere 16 points out of the top eight and are eager to pull into range for the Battle for the Belts Shootout to be contested at the World Finals, Oct 21-23. Doing well at this weekend's Speedtech U.S. Drags at Virginia Motorsports Park could go a long way toward securing their spot in the Battle. "We really hope to be a part of the Battle for the Belts this year," told the youngest driver in the XPS ranks. "I'm glad that the ADRL continued this program even though the Championship is now decided by points. Having the Battle for the Belts as a Shootout program still gives the top eight the chance to battle it out for bragging rights, and it gives the fans the exciting, all-or-nothing race they love. It's defi-

nately not out of the realm of possibility for us to compete in the Battle for the Belts this year. We've got three races left to get in the top eight.

Hopefully we'll do well in Virginia and make moves toward participating in the Battle for the Belts.

"Unfortunately, red lights have been my nemesis this season. I hate losing that way. The team works too hard for us to lose on the starting line.

I do try to cut good lights and I know that with that comes a red light every now and then, but, as the driver, I want to give our team the best chance possible. So this weekend my plan will be to go green and stay consistent on the tree.

"We have a great team, killer Kaase power, and a car that we know can run at the front. We're going into Virginia with a positive attitude; ready to have some fun, hopefully go



some rounds, and put on a show for our awesome Aruba.com fans!" Stay in the loop with Team

Aruba at www.facebook.com/teamarubaracing and on Twitter @TeamArubaRacing. Find race re-

sults, team updates, videos and photos. Also leave your comments to cheer on Team Aruba! □

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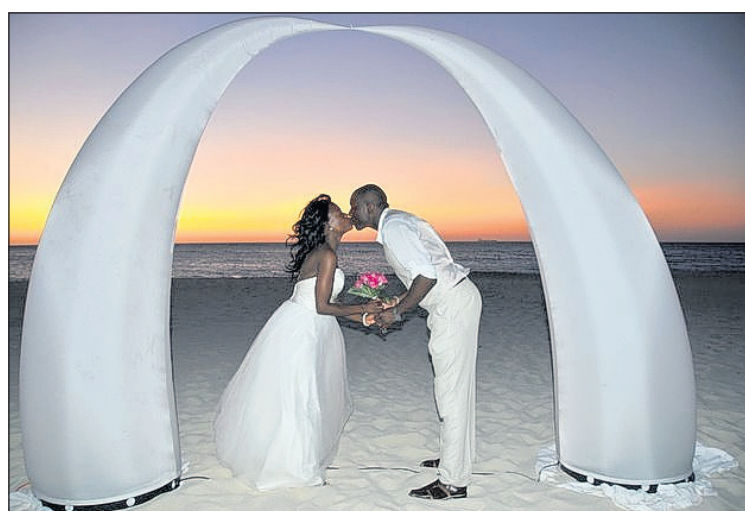
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Screaming Eagle Beach wedding for Headley & Tamara



EAGLE BEACH - Headley Bent and Tamara Foster from Canada were married during an intimate ceremony on Eagle Beach in front of the Screaming Eagle Restaurant. They exchange rings and vows witnessed by family during blessing on the beach officiated by Rev. Diane Keijzer. The sugar white sandy aisle was created by master-mind decorator Fernando Mansur of Mosaic. Both Headly and Tamara were greatly surprised by the intimate location free of uninvited guests and professional staff performance



from Mosaic and Digimage photography. The Screaming Eagle Restaurant and Lounge took over just as the sunset

with Champagne on the beach followed by dinner in bed in the private dining area of the restaurant. Chef Erwin prepared a

dinner to "scream about" says Headley and Tamara and they never imagined to have such a romantic wedding day. The evening concluded with the cutting of the cake prepared especially for them by Chef Erwin and the first dance to their favorite music. The couple continued their honeymoon with by trash-

ing her dress in the breaking waves at Arashi Beach followed by a romantic dinner in the water at the Flying Fishbone Restaurant in Savaneta. Screaming Eagle Restaurant was recently discovered by the Discovery Channel and will be showcased next month on during the program called the Best of the Best of Aruba. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NCAA looks at smaller rulebook, tougher penalties

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS (AP)

—NCAA leaders are ready to give college sports a complete overhaul. They want to simplify the massive 439-page Division I rulebook, enforce stronger penalties for rule-breakers, increase academic standards and link academic performance to possible postseason bans. And if NCAA President Mark Emmert gets his way, all of this would be approved in the next 12 months. It's a far cry from the stodgy, deliberative days of past NCAA administrations. "What's different is a lot of things have reached a boiling point," Penn State president Graham Spanier said after Emmert's two-day presidential retreat wrapped up Wednesday. "The board of directors has the authority to make some decisions that it has been reluctant to do before, but I think the presidents have reached a point where they're saying too many things are not working well. So the board needs to take stronger actions from the top." Thursday's board meeting represents the first test to see if that will happen.

A new outline for the Academic Progress Rate, the calculation used to evaluate whether each team at a school is making sufficient progress toward graduation, was already on the docket. The current outline is 925. Emmert wants it increased to 930 immediately and perhaps higher in future years. Failure to meet the outline, Emmert said, should result in postseason bans in all sports. "It's very realistic and it will happen very quickly, meaning this year," Emmert said. □

No. 1 Wozniacki loses, Serena wins at Rogers Cup



TORONTO (AP)—World No. 1 and defending champion Caroline Wozniacki lost to Roberta Vinci 6-4, 7-5 in a second-round match at the Rogers Cup on Wednesday.

Wozniacki, who has won a WTA-leading five titles this year, was up 5-1 in the second set and looking to rally from a set down. However, the No. 22-ranked Italian stormed back with three break points to complete the upset.

Also, former No. 1 Serena Williams and fifth-seeded Maria Sharapova both survived scares to advance.

Williams pulled out a tough

second set to beat Julia Goerges 6-1, 7-6 (7), and Sharapova edged 19-year-old Bojana Jovanovski of Serbia 6-1, 7-5 in a chilly evening match.

Williams, a 13-time Grand Slam tournament champion, used her intimidating serve, which topped out at nearly 122 miles per hour, to roll through her first set before the 20th-ranked German fought back in the second.

Wozniacki had a bye in the first round and never really got going against the 22nd-ranked Italian, sending her return long on match point. Wozniacki also hit returns long twice at the first set

point.

"I would have liked to have won that one and especially after leading 5-1 in the second," Wozniacki said. "It's not fun to lose this, but there's nothing really I can do about it now, just practice, and try to do better." Windy conditions wreaked havoc with Wozniacki's serve in the first set, as the ball repeatedly floated away when she tossed it above her. She had seven double-faults in the match.

"It was very difficult at first with the wind," Wozniacki said. "Especially when you threw it up. It was going everywhere, so definitely that didn't make it easy. It was

blowing in different directions, but it's the same for both players."

Vinci reached the third round of the Rogers Cup in her third time in the tournament. She has wins this year in Barcelona, Budapest and Hertongenbosch.

"This is the best victory in my life," the 28-year-old Vinci said. "I was 5-1 down but I knew that I can win the set because it was a lot of wind, so some mistakes. I tried to stay focused and play aggressive. That's it, this is the key why I won the set."

Continued on Next Page 20

WNBA Roundup

Fever maintains WNBA East lead

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Fever maintained its lead in the WNBA's Eastern Conference by establishing a big early lead and holding on for an 81-68 win over the San Antonio Silver Stars on Tuesday.

Tamika Catchings scored 21 points to lead a balanced offense, while Erin Phillips added 18 points for the Fever, who stayed a game ahead of Connecticut.

Indiana led by as many as 20 points before Becky Hammon scored 15 points in the final quarter period to help the Silver Stars cut the deficit to ten with 2:17 to play. Hammon scored 19 points.

Mercury 85, Lynx 80

In Phoenix, the hosts closed the gap to Minnesota to four games, ending the Lynx's franchise-record nine-game winning streak. Phoenix went up 78-77 with 36 seconds left. On the Lynx's subsequent possession, Rebekkah Brunson had the ball on the baseline in traffic just a few feet from the basket but Diana Taurasi knocked the ball away and was fouled to help secure the victory.

She made two free throws with 19 seconds left to give the Mercury an 80-77 lead. Taurasi finished with 26 points. Maya Moore scored 28 points for the Lynx. Minnesota's Seimone Augustus and Lindsay Whalen both passed the 3,000-point mark in the game, becoming the first pair of teammates in league history to reach that plateau in the same game.

Liberty 58, Storm 56

In Newark, Cappie Pondexter scored 19 points, including the go-ahead layup with 41 seconds remaining, to lift New York over Seattle. After Pondexter put the Liberty ahead, Seattle's Sue Bird missed a 3-pointer



Los Angeles Sparks center Jantel Lavender, front left, and Tulsa Shock center Elizabeth Cambage, back, of Australia, scramble for a loose ball in the first half of a WNBA basketball game Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011, in Los Angeles.

from the right corner with 20 seconds to go and a short jumper inside the free throw line with about 10 seconds left.

The ball was knocked out of bounds by New York and Seattle's Swin Cash missed a layup after the ensuing inbounds play.

Plenette Pierson had nine points and eight rebounds for the Liberty, who won despite shooting 39 percent from the field, including 4 for 12 on 3-pointers.

Bird scored 17 points and Tanisha Wright and Katie Smith had 11 apiece for Seattle, which was 31 percent from the field, including 8 for 21 on 3s.

Sun 69, Sky 58

In Uncasville, Connecticut, Tina Charles scored 16 points and added 11 rebounds for her seventh straight double-double to tie the WNBA record and lead Connecticut past Chi-

cago.

Charles matched Lauren Jackson's mark set in 2003. Kara Lawson added 14 points for Connecticut.

Sylvia Fowles led Chicago with 19 points.

Dream 72, Mystics 70

In Washington, Sancho Lytle hit a 13-footer with less than a second remaining to give Atlanta a comeback win over Washington.

Angel McCoughtry scored 19 points for Atlanta while Erika DeSouza added 18 points and 12 rebounds for her seventh double-double of the season.

Matee Ajavon scored 17 of her 28 points in the fourth quarter, but couldn't prevent the Mystics from falling to their second last-second loss in three games.

Washington put together a 19-6 run during the fourth quarter to take a 67-61 lead, only to see Atlanta close the game out on a

11-3 spurt.

Sparks 71, Shock 66

In Los Angeles, the hosts handed Tulsa its 15th straight loss.

Ticha Penicheiro scored a season-high 23 points, while Natasha Lacy and Tina Thompson had 12 points apiece to help the Sparks snap a three-game losing skid. Penicheiro added seven rebounds and seven assists.

Tiffany Jackson led Tulsa with 18 points.

The Shock came close to ending their long losing skid, getting within three points in the final minute before Penicheiro hit a pair of free throws to seal it.

In other WNBA games it was Indiana 81, San Antonio 68; Atlanta 72, Washington 70; Connecticut 69, Chicago 58; New York 58, Seattle 56; Phoenix 85, Minnesota 80; and Los Angeles 71, Tulsa 66. □

Associated Press

End of lockout hasn't solved NFL retirees lawsuit

By STEVE KARNOWSKI

Associated Press

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — A federal judge said Wednesday that a group of retired players led by Hall of Famer Carl Eller faces an uphill battle as it seeks to press forward with a lawsuit over unresolved issues stemming from the NFL lockout.

U.S. District Judge Susan Richard Nelson convened a status conference to decide whether it would be worthwhile to order the three sides to sit down again next week with U.S. Magistrate Judge Arthur Boylan, who brokered the agreement that ended the lockout but did not settle the retirees' still-pending lawsuit.

The retirees claim they were illegally left out as the contract negotiations progressed, and Wednesday's discussions escalated into a partial airing of the complex arguments about league and union legal responsibilities to the retirees that the judge needs to untangle as she decides how to proceed.

Attorneys for the league and NFL Players Association argued against letting the lawsuit move forward or going to mediation. Representing the NFL, David Boies said retirees received a substantial increase in benefits under the new contract.

NFLPA attorney Jeffrey Kessler pointed out that the court has not yet added the union as a defendant to the retirees' original lawsuit, so there's nothing for the union to mediate at the moment.

Nelson said she sympathizes with the retirees but likened their case to "pushing a rock up a hill."

Rather than ordering more mediation, she told the three sides to sit down with Boylan for informal talks Wednesday afternoon. Afterward, lawyers for all sides said the discussions produced no agreement or date for additional mediation. □



KEEP ARUBA CLEAN...



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Federer beats Pospisil in straight sets at Rogers

MONTREAL (AP) — Roger Federer defeated Vasek Pospisil of Canada 7-5, 6-3 Wednesday in the men's draw of the Rogers Cup.

Pospisil, the second-highest-ranked Canadian behind Milos Raonic, earned eight aces against the world's former No. 1, who was playing his first match since turning 30 on Monday.

The No. 3-ranked Swiss won the Rogers Cup in 2004 and 2006 and was the runner-up in 2007 and 2010. It was a dream matchup for the 21-year-old Pospisil, who has idolized Federer since childhood. Afterwards, Federer said it's not the first time he's heard of a younger opponent's admiration.

"For me it was important to have role models to look up to, such as (Pete) Sampras and (Stefan) Edberg and so forth," Federer said. "Then to be able to also



Roger Federer from Switzerland, lunges to return to Canada's Vasek Pospisil during second round play at the Rogers Cup men's tennis tournament Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011 in Montreal. Federer won 7-5, 6-3.

Associated Press

play Pete at Wimbledon was very big in my career, it gave me a huge lift to be able to play in a big stadium against a big player — and I hope it does the same for him."

Top-seeded Novak Djokovic survived an early scare before defeating Russia's Nikolay Davydenko 7-5, 6-1. The 2007 Rogers Cup

champion improved his stunning 2011 record to 49-1 overall and 25-0 on hard courts. The Serb's only defeat came at the hands of Federer in the French Open semifinal.

In his first match since climbing to No. 1 in the ATP rankings, the 24-year-old Djokovic battled through a close first set before fin-

ishing of the 30th-ranked Davydenko.

Federer said he was impressed with Pospisil's performance.

"He had good variation on his serve," said Federer, who also remarked how surprised he was by the 6-foot-3 Pospisil's height. "It was somewhat tricky getting to know his patterns a bit more." Pospisil said it felt like a dream when he walked out onto the stadium's biggest stage — where the crowd roared around him and his idol stood at the other end of the court.

"After that I concentrated on my game and I tried to forget that I was playing against Federer," Pospisil said.

When told Federer was impressed by his level of play, Pospisil blushed, let out a nervous giggle and stumbled on his words a little bit. "To hear that from Roger, for me it's incredible," the

starstruck Pospisil said. "He's been my favorite player for eight years, so it's someone I watched on television every week, so yeah, it's nice to hear that."

Second-ranked Rafael Nadal was scheduled to play later in the day.

In other early singles action, No. 7 Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic ousted Alexandr Dolgoplov of Ukraine 4-6, 6-2, 6-3; No. 8 Nicolas Almagro of Spain defeated Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-2, 7-6 (5); No. 13 Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France blasted 15 aces to beat Bernard Tomic of Australia, 6-3, 7-6; No. 14 Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland knocked out qualifier Michael Russell of the United States, 6-3, 6-2; and Ivo Karlovic of Croatia beat Germany's Philipp Petzschner 6-7 (0), 7-6 (2), 7-6 (8).

Raonic is not taking part in the tournament as he recovers from a hip surgery. □

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Abreu lifts Angels to 6-4 win over Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — Bobby Abreu hit a two-out two-run homer in the ninth inning — his second homer of the game — to give the Los Angeles Angels a 6-4 win over the New York Yankees in the American League on Tuesday.

The Angels held onto the lead in the bottom of the ninth thanks to a tricky play. With runners at the corners and two outs, Los Angeles pitcher Jordan Walden faked a pickoff throw to third base and Curtis Granderson fell for it, taking off from first base trying to steal second and getting caught in no man's land.

Abreu's drive deep into the seats in right was only the second homer allowed this season by New York closer Mariano Rivera (1-2). He faltered for the second straight appearance, having blown a ninth-inning lead Sunday at Boston.

Los Angeles' Alberto Callaspo opened the ninth with a single and after two outs, Abreu hit his sixth homer of the season.

Angels reliever Scott Downs (6-2) took the win, getting a groundout with two runners on base to end the eighth. The Yankees suffered a third straight defeat for the first time in two months, and fell 2-1/2 games behind Boston



Los Angeles Angels designated hitter Bobby Abreu watches his two-run home run off of Yankees' Mariano Rivera in the ninth inning of a baseball game on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011 at Yankee Stadium in New York. Abreu hit two home runs during the Angels' 6-4 win. At left is Yankees catcher Russell Martin.

Associated Press

in the AL East.

Red Sox 4, Twins 3

In Minneapolis, Darnell McDonald hit a two-run homer to lift Boston to a tight win over Minnesota.

David Ortiz gave the Red Sox the lead for good on an infield single with the bases loaded in the seventh inning and Jonathan Papelbon picked up his 26th save.

Boston's Matt Albers (4-3) gave up one run in one inning of relief for the win.

Matt Capps (3-6) gave up one run and walked two in one inning to take the loss for the Twins, who have lost six straight.

Indians 3, Tigers 2, 14 innings In Cleveland, reliever David Pauley hit Kosuke Fukudome with the bases loaded in the 14th inning to

give Cleveland victory over Detroit.

In the 14th, Pauley (5-5) walked Asdrubal Cabrera with one out before Travis Hafner singled, sending Cabrera to third. An intentional walk loaded the bases and Fukudome — acquired last month from the Chicago Cubs — was then drilled in the arm by Pauley, giving the Indians their 13th walk-

off win at home this season. The result of the game — delayed more than two hours by rain and which took seven hours to complete — tightened the AL Central race, as the Indians moved within three games of leaders Detroit.

Frank Herrmann (3-0), Cleveland's eighth pitcher, pitched two hitless innings for the win.

The Indians have won 12 straight over the Tigers at home.

Rangers 7, Mariners 6

In Arlington, Josh Hamilton drove in the winning run with a single in the ninth inning, completing Texas' comeback from a three-run deficit against Seattle. Ian Kinsler and Endy Chavez homered for the Rangers, whose AL West lead over second-place Los Angeles remained at 1-1/2 games.

Jeff Gray (0-1) walked Kinsler leading off the ninth. Aaron Laffey relieved and Chavez reached on a bunt single that sent Kinsler to second. Hamilton followed with a single to left.

Kinsler's two-run homer in the seventh had pulled Texas within 6-5. Yorvit Torrealba's RBI double tied it. Texas' Neftali Feliz (2-3) pitched the ninth for the victory.

Athletics 4, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Josh Willingham and Kurt Suzuki homered to power Oakland past Toronto. Athletics starter Rich Harden (3-2) pitched seven strong innings to improve on a previously dismal record north of the border, where he had an 0-2 record with a 13.50 ERA in three previous starts. He walked two and struck out eight.

The Athletics have won three straight and have homered in a season-high seven straight, connecting 11 times in that span.

Blue Jays starter Brett Cecil (4-5) allowed three runs and four hits in seven innings. He walked two and struck out five.

Rays 4, Royals 0

In St. Petersburg, James Shields his major league-best eighth complete game this season to steer Tampa Bay past Kansas City. □

WOZNIACK!

Continued from Page 17

Williams also complained about the wind, which swirled around the court with gusts up to 22 mph.

"I thought (Goerges) played really well and really smart, the conditions were extremely tough. I thought that she had to change up her game and I had to adjust to that," Williams said. "It was just so much wind out there so it was a little difficult, but we were in the same circumstances so that's what I tried to think of. But she played really well."

Williams giggled when asked if her powerful serve gives her an advantage in the wind.

"I had to hit it softer today

because it was so windy, I had to take pace off my ball," she said. "If you hit it too hard the ball is going to totally fly the harder you hit."

Williams will meet China's Jie Zheng, who advanced Tuesday night when second-seeded Kim Clijsters pulled out due to stomach muscle injury.

Sharapova's serve abandoned her in a second set that saw her commit five double faults. The three-time Grand Slam champion finally sealed the victory when Jovanovski fired a return long.

Meanwhile, Serbia's Ana Ivanovic beat Iveta Benešova of the Czech Republic in a match that had to be moved from center court after the wind blew a light onto the surface.

Earlier in the day, eighth-seeded Francesca Schiavone of Italy eased into the third round with a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Ekaterina Makarova of Russia.

Schiavone capitalized on five of her nine break point opportunities to win in just more than an hour, as play was temporarily halted shortly after the match due to rain.

Makarova, who advanced on Monday by eliminating Canada's Rebecca Marino, also lost to Schiavone in the second round at last year's tournament.

Also, Australia's Samantha Stosur beat Canada's Aleksandra Wozniak 6-3, 6-4.

"Well, it's disappointing," Wozniak said. "You play at home and you want to do so well. But I thought it was a good match, and I had a

really tough opponent today."

In other matches, Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová, defeated Anabel Medina Garrigues of Spain 7-6 (3), 6-3, and Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic ousted Romania's Simona Halep 6-2, 6-4.

A scheduled matchup between the top two Chinese players was canceled when Shuai Peng pulled out of her second-round match against world No. 6 Li Na with a left hip injury. Peng, who came into the match ranked No. 16, said she first sustained the injury last week in San Diego.

"It is sad for her," Li said. "Always tough when you're playing same-country player. We train together, we know much (about each other). Always tough." □

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NL Roundup

Lee dominates with bat and ball, Phillies win

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Philadelphia's Cliff Lee pitched eight scoreless innings with 10 strikeouts and also hit just his second career home run, leading the Phillies to a 2-1 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League on Tuesday. Lee (12-7) allowed only two runners past first base, and closer Ryan Madson got three outs for his 21st save in 22 chances.

Jimmy Rollins had an RBI single to help the Phillies win for the 11th time in 12 games and go 36 games over .500 (76-40) for the first time since 1977.

Philadelphia maintained its 8-1/2 game lead over Atlanta in the NL East.

Dodgers starter Ted Lilly (7-12) allowed six hits over eight innings.

Braves 4, Marlins 3, 11 innings

In Miami, Dan Uggla extended his hitting streak to 30 games as Atlanta edged Florida.

Uggla hit an infield single in the fifth inning to tie the Dodgers' Andre Ethier for the majors' longest hitting streak of the season.

The winning run came after Michael Bourn doubled off Edward Mujica (8-4) with one out in the 11th. Martin Prado then singled to shallow right field and the throw to home went over the catcher's head, allowing Bourn to score.

Prado also homered, and tied a career high with four hits and drove in three runs. Craig Kimbrel induced a game-ending double play to end it, recording his 36th save in 41 chances.

Atlanta's George Sherrill (3-1) pitched a scoreless ninth to earn the win.

Giants 6, Pirates 0

In San Francisco, Chris Stewart hit his first major league home run and Aubrey Huff had another solo shot for San Francisco in the win over Pittsburgh.

Huff also had an RBI double to help chase Pirates starter James McDonald (7-6) after six innings. McDonald allowed three runs.

Giants starter Madison Bumgarner (7-11) struck out 10 and walked just one in seven innings.

Brewers 5, Cardinals 3, 10 innings

In St. Louis, Milwaukee extended its lead over St. Louis in the NL Central to four games after Casey McGehee hit a double to snap a 10th-inning tie.

The Brewers' 3-4-5 hitters had been 0 for 12 before extra innings when Prince Fielder singled to put runners at the corners ahead of McGehee's double off Octavio Dotel (0-1) over the head of the right fielder. Yuniesky Betancourt added a sacrifice fly as Milwaukee made it 12 wins in 13 games.

LaTroy Hawkins (1-0) earned the win for Milwaukee and John Axford finished for his 30th straight save.

Rockies 3, Reds 2

In Cincinnati, Troy Tulowitzki hit a two-run homer as Colorado pipped Cincinnati, handing the Reds their fifth loss in six games.

Dexter Fowler had two of Colorado's five hits and drove in the go-ahead run for the Rockies.

Colorado starter Esmil Rogers (6-1) allowed two runs over six innings with six strikeouts and two walks.

The Reds were 0 for 9 with runners in scoring position and left Dontrelle Willis still looking for his first win in six



Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Cliff Lee throws against the Los Angeles Dodgers during the first inning of a baseball game in Los Angeles on Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2011.

Associated Press

starts since being called up from the minors. Willis (0-2) had a season-best 10 strikeouts.

Mets 5, Padres 4

In New York, Josh Spence walked Ruben Tejada to hand New York the winning run and victory over San Diego.

The Mets trailed by four runs in the eighth inning before Angel Pagan's homer began the comeback. They also came from two runs down in the eighth the previous day and have moved back above .500.

Pagan, the team's new leadoff man because of an injury to Jose Reyes, homered for the second consecutive night when he connected off Chad Qualls (5-6) to start the eighth.

New York reliever D.J. Carrasco (1-2) entered in

the eighth and escaped a jam unscathed to earn the win. Jason Istringhausen earned his 299th career save.

Nationals 3, Cubs 1

In Chicago, Chien-Ming Wang pitched six scoreless innings to set up Washington's win over Chicago.

In his third start after missing more than two years following shoulder surgery, Wang (1-2) won for the first time since 2009.

Jonny Gomes hit a two-run homer, Michael Morse added a long home run and Ryan Zimmerman extended his hitting streak to 17 games for the Nationals. Cubs starter Matt Garza (5-9) allowed three runs in six innings to take the loss.

Diamondbacks 11, Astros 9 In Phoenix, Arizona came from six runs down to beat

Houston.

Justin Upton had three hits, including a home run, and drove in four runs for the Diamondbacks.

Gerardo Parra had his fourth career four-hit game, Miguel Montero doubled and had three RBIs and Willie Bloomquist added a two-run single.

Arizona's Micah Owings (6-0) threw three innings, conceding one run, and took the win.

Astros starter Wilton Lopez (2-5) allowed Upton's go-ahead two-run homer.

In other NL games it was Atlanta 4, Florida 3, 11 innings; Colorado 3, Cincinnati 2; N.Y. Mets 5, San Diego 4; Washington 3, Chicago Cubs 1; Milwaukee 5, St. Louis 3, 10 innings; Arizona 11, Houston 9; Philadelphia 2, L.A. Dodgers 1; and San Francisco 6, Pittsburgh 0. □

'Amazing' therapy destroys leukemia in 3 patients

STEPHANIE NANO

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) —

Scientists are reporting the first clear success with a new approach for treating leukemia — turning the patients' own blood cells into assassins that hunt and destroy their cancer cells.

They've only done it in three patients so far, but the results were striking: Two appear cancer-free up to a year after treatment, and the third patient is improved but still has some cancer. Scientists are already preparing to try the same gene therapy technique for other kinds of cancer.

"It worked great. We were surprised it worked as well as it did," said Dr. Carl June, a gene therapy expert at the University of Pennsylvania. "We're just a year out now. We need to find out how long these remissions last."

He led the study, published Wednesday by two journals, New England Journal of Medicine and Science Translational Medicine.

It involved three men with very advanced cases of chronic lymphocytic leukemia, or CLL. The only hope for a cure now is bone marrow or stem cell transplants, which don't always work and carry a high risk of death.

Scientists have been working for years to find ways to boost the immune system's

ability to fight cancer. Earlier attempts at genetically modifying bloodstream soldiers called T-cells have had limited success; the modified cells didn't reproduce well and quickly disappeared.

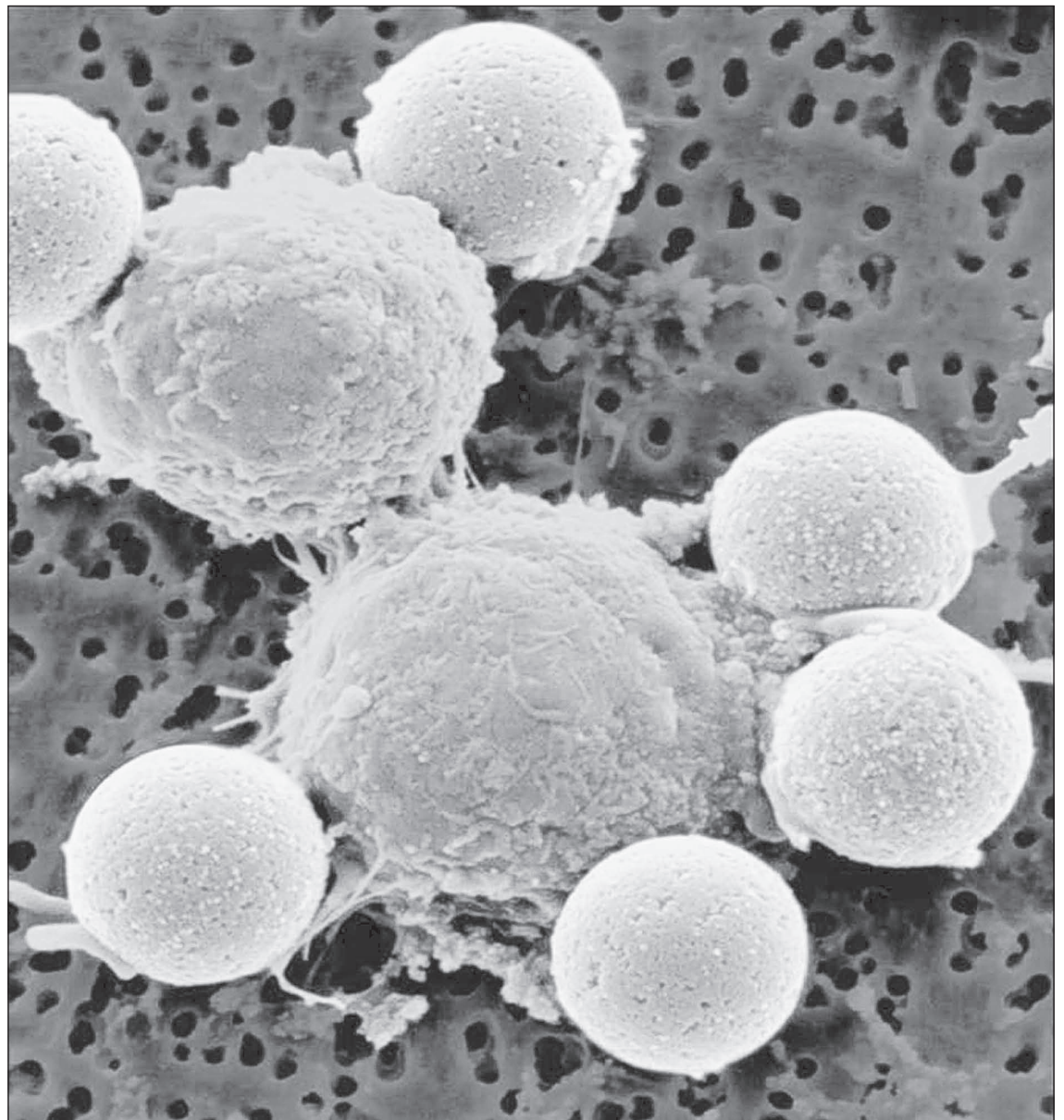
June and his colleagues made changes to the technique, using a novel carrier to deliver the new genes into the T-cells and a signaling mechanism telling the cells to kill and multiply.

That resulted in armies of "serial killer" cells that targeted cancer cells, destroyed them, and went on to kill new cancer as it emerged. It was known that T-cells attack viruses that way, but this is the first time it's been done against cancer, June said.

For the experiment, blood was taken from each patient and T-cells removed. After they were altered in a lab, millions of the cells were returned to the patient in three infusions.

The researchers described the experience of one 64-year-old patient in detail. There was no change for two weeks, but then he became ill with chills, nausea and fever. He and the other two patients were hit with a condition that occurs when a large number of cancer cells die at the same time — a sign that the gene therapy is working.

"It was like the worse flu of their life," June said. "But



after that, it's over. They're well." The main complication seems to be that this technique also destroys some other infection-fighting blood cells; so far the patients have been getting monthly treatments for that. Penn researchers want to test the gene therapy tech-

nique in leukemia-related cancers, as well as pancreatic and ovarian cancer, he said. Other institutions are looking at prostate and brain cancer.

Dr. Walter J. Urbach of the Providence Cancer Center in Portland, Ore., called the findings "pretty remark-

able" but added a note of caution because of the size of the study.

"It's still just three patients. Three's better than one, but it's not 100," said Urbach, one of the authors of an editorial on the research that appears in the New England Journal. □

Boy or girl? A simple test raises ethical concerns

By LINDSEY TANNER

AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) —

Boy or girl? A simple blood test in mothers-to-be can answer that question with surprising accuracy at about seven weeks, a research analysis has found.

Though not widely offered by U.S. doctors, gender-detecting blood tests have been sold online to consumers for the past few years. Their promises of early and accurate results prompted genetics researchers to take a closer look.

They analyzed 57 published studies of gender testing done in rigorous research or academic settings —

though not necessarily the same methods or conditions used by direct-to-consumer firms.

The authors say the results suggest blood tests like those studied could be a breakthrough for women at risk of having babies with certain diseases, who could avoid invasive procedures if they learned their fetus was a gender not affected by those illnesses. But the study raises concerns about couples using such tests for gender selection and abortion. Couples who buy tests from marketers should be questioned about how they plan to use the results, the study authors said.

The analyzed test can detect fetal DNA in mothers' blood. It's about 95 percent accurate at identifying gender when women are at least seven weeks' pregnant — more than one month before conventional methods. Accuracy of the testing increases as pregnancy advances, the researchers concluded.

Conventional procedures, typically done for medical reasons, can detect gender starting at about 10 weeks.

The new analysis, published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association, involved more than 6,000 pregnancies.



The testing used a lab procedure called PCR that detects genetic material — in this case, the male Y chromosome. If present in the mother's blood, she's carrying a boy, but if absent, it's a girl.

Tests that companies sell directly to consumers were not examined in the analysis. Sex-detection tests using mothers' urine or blood before seven weeks of pregnancy were not accurate, the researchers said. □

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Wal-Mart and Amazon go around Apple App Store

PETER SVENSSON

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. on Wednesday revealed new video and book-reading services that are designed for the iPad but bypass Apple Inc.'s fees on content sales.

Wal-Mart started to stream video from its Vudu service to the iPad's Web browser, and Amazon announced the Kindle Cloud Reader, which lets users read e-books.

Amazon, the leading seller of e-books, has a Kindle app for the iPad.

However, Apple recently forced it to remove a button that launches Amazon's Kindle website, where users buy books. Apple wants companies to sell

their content through its iTunes system, where it gets a 30 percent cut.

Media companies are finding Apple's fees hard to accept.

So they are getting around that by avoiding apps that must be distributed through Apple's App Store, where Apple's fee policies apply. Earlier this summer, The Financial Times created an app-like website for its newspaper to avoid Apple's fees.

The Kindle Cloud Reader is a "Web app," nearly indistinguishable from a regular app. Users have to go through a few steps to store the app and their books on the iPad.

But when that's done, it's capable of reading stored books without an Internet

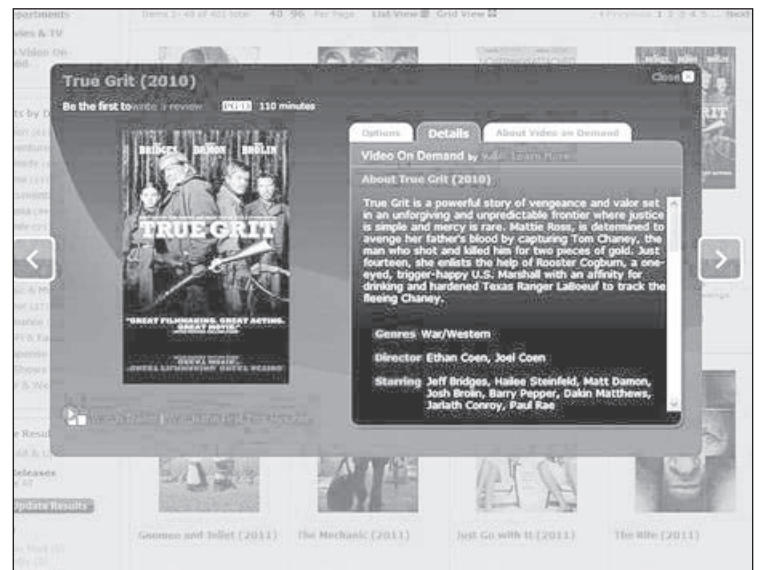
connection.

Wal-Mart's Vudu site relies on streaming video, so it does not work without an Internet connection. The site already works with PC browsers, but the Flash technology used doesn't work on the iPad. Instead, Vudu is using "Live Streaming" tools from Apple to reach the tablet.

Vudu.com's business model is similar to Apple's own iTunes. It rents out movies for \$1 to \$6 for a 24-hour or 48-hour viewing period. It also sells them for \$5 and up, which allows viewing any time.

Its claim to fame is that it has many movies on the same day they're released on DVD.

Edward Lichty, general manager for Vudu, said the site will also work with iPhones and iPod Touches, but the interface could be hard to navigate, because it's designed for tablets. The movies will even stream over "3G" cellular broadband, but the im-



In this screen shot provided by Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the film "True Grit" is shown as one of the titles available on the company's new video-streaming service.

The world's largest retailer on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 started streaming many movies the same day they come out on DVD, in a second bid for a share of popular movie rental and streaming website Netflix Inc.'s business and just two weeks after Netflix announced new price increases.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. bought video-streaming service Vudu.com 18 months ago and now offers 20,000 titles that can be viewed on almost any device with Internet access, from computers to televisions to Sony's PlayStation3 and other Blu-Ray disc players.

Associated Press

age quality will suffer, and a full movie would eat a lot of the monthly data allowance that iPad plans usually come with.

Vudu is owned by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The Little Rock, Arkansas-based retailer bought Vudu a year and a half ago.

Summary Box: Companies go around Apple App Store

By The Associated Press

THE DEVELOPMENT: Wal-Mart Stores Inc. and Amazon.com Inc. reveal new services designed for the iPad but bypass Apple Inc.'s fees on content sales. **THE DETAILS:** Wal-Mart started to stream video from its Vudu service to the iPad's Web browser on Wednesday. Amazon announced the Kindle Cloud Reader, which lets users read e-books.

WHY IT MATTERS: Apple wants companies to sell their content through its iTunes system, where it gets a 30 percent cut. Companies are finding Apple's fees hard to accept. So they are getting around that by avoiding apps that must be distributed through Apple's App Store,

where Apple's fee policies apply.

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Stocks resume sell-off; Dow finishes down 519

STAN CHOE

AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Back to reality for the stock market — and back down.

Wall Street focused Wednesday on the bleak landscape ahead for the economy and sold off, wiping out the big gains from a day earlier and then some. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 519 points. The selling was intensified by worries about debt problems in Europe. On Tuesday, the Federal Reserve said it planned to keep interest rates ultra-low for two more years. After some initial confusion, the stock market staged a huge comeback and had one of its best days. But the interest-rate news proved to be a distraction. The Fed made the pledge



A custodian sweeps the floor of the New York Stock Exchange after the closing bell, Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011. Wall Street focused Wednesday on the bleak landscape ahead for the economy and sold off, wiping out the big gains from a day earlier and then some. The selling was intensified by worries about debt problems in Europe. The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 519.83 points.

Associated Press

because it sees almost no chance that the economy will improve substantially by 2013, and when investors focused on that, they dumped stocks again.

"Now it gets back to the fundamentals," said Mark Lamkin, founder of Lamkin Wealth Management, which manages \$215 million.

The Dow closed at 10,719.94, down 4.6 percent for the day. By points, it was the ninth-steepest decline for the market.

The Dow has now lost more than 2,000 points in less than three weeks.

Wednesday was another day marked by big moves. The Dow was down more than 300 points within minutes of the opening bell. It recovered some of that loss, then drifted steadily lower in the last two hours. The market has traded that way for two weeks, lurching up and down. The most extreme example was Tuesday, when the Dow swung more than 600 points in the one hour and 45 minutes after the Fed's statement. The stomach-churning highs and lows are reminiscent of the fall of 2008, the depths of the financial crisis, when swings of 800 or even 1,000 points in day were not unheard of.

Computerized trading systems — programmed to analyze charts, capitalize on the tiniest changes in price and execute trades with no human intervention — are making the market rougher.

High-frequency trading programs make up about half of the trades in a normal market day but 70 percent or more on a volatile one. The programs pounce on stock changes to make just slivers of a penny but do it so often that it adds up to real dollars. □

Capital One to buy HSBC U.S. credit card arm

MCLEAN, Virginia (AP)

— Capital One Financial Corp. said Wednesday that it will buy the U.S. credit card arm of Britain's HSBC for a premium of about \$2.6 billion as a way to expand its domestic credit card business.

"Adding the HSBC card business to our own will enhance our credit card franchise and accelerate our achievement of a leadership position in retail card partnerships," Capital One Chairman and CEO Richard Fairbank said in a statement.

The acquisition includes the HSBC unit's approximately \$30 billion credit card portfolio.

Capital One shares rose 87 cents, or 2.1 percent, to \$41.69 in premarket trading.

HSBC announced in May that it was exploring a possible sale of the business, which includes its MasterCard, Visa, private label and other credit card operations. The deal does not include HSBC Bank USA's \$1.1 billion credit card program.

The sale of the U.S. credit



In this April 25, 2008 file photo, New York buildings are reflected in the window of a Capital One bank branch. Capital One Financial Corp. said Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011, that it will buy the U.S. credit card arm of Britain's HSBC for a premium of about \$2.6 billion as a way to expand its domestic credit card business.

Associated Press

card division comes a little more than a week after HSBC announced that it will sell almost half its retail branches in the United States. That includes the sale of 195 branches in New York and Connecticut to First Niagara Financial Group.

HSBC said the two actions are part of its plan to make HSBC a more internationally focused business, but reassured that the U.S. is still considered a key market in

its strategy.

HSBC and Capital One said that they expect no immediate changes to the credit card programs and operations. HSBC customers will see no near-term service changes and should be able to use their credit cards like normal.

The division's gross assets were valued at \$30.4 billion as of June 30, which includes approximately \$29.6 billion in gross customer loan balances. □

Gold shoots past record \$1,800 an ounce

The price of gold topped \$1,800 an ounce for the first time, as concern about Europe's debt problems intensified Wednesday.

French President Nicolas Sarkozy cut short a vacation and pledged to slash France's huge debts on fears that the country may lose its AAA credit rating. Although rating agencies reaffirmed France's top-notch rating, the downgrade of U.S. debt by Standard & Poor's last week fueled worries that France could be next to lose the coveted and rare rating if it contributes to further bailouts of euro-zone countries.

Investors are already wor-

ried Italy and Spain will be the next countries unable to repay their debts. The European financial system has been battered by fears about banks holding bonds of heavily indebted countries such as Greece and Portugal.

The concern is that if European governments default on their bonds, it will hurt the European banks that own them. That could start a chain reaction that hurts the United States, because large U.S. banks have loans to European banks. Investors looking for a safe place to put their money pulled out of stocks and snapped up precious metals contracts. □

The iPad trumps oil: Apple is most valuable U.S. co.

BARBARA ORTUTAY
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors seem to think you want an iPad more than oil, as Apple Inc. became the most valuable company in the United States, surpassing Exxon Mobil Corp. on Wednesday.

Apple briefly flirted with the top spot on Tuesday afternoon before settling back slightly below the oil giant. Wednesday was the first time that Apple managed to stay No. 1 after the stock market closed.

Apple's stock fell 2.8 percent to close at \$363.69, which brings the iPhone and iPad maker's market capitalization to \$337 billion.

Exxon's stock fell 4.4 percent to close at \$68.03. That gives the oil company a market cap of \$331 billion.

The change of the guard took place two days after global markets saw its worst fall since 2008 as investors worried about the U.S. credit downgrade and the possibility of another recession.

Exxon had been the most valuable company since 2005, and Apple only took No. 2 in May 2010 when it surpassed Microsoft Corp. The power shift, while largely symbolic, is a substantial milestone for Apple, which has enjoyed a triumphant comeback since the 1990s, when it struggled to stay afloat before Steve Jobs returned to take the helm. But it's not just the comeback. Gleacher & Co. analyst Brian Marshall says Apple is giving investors something that has never been seen before.

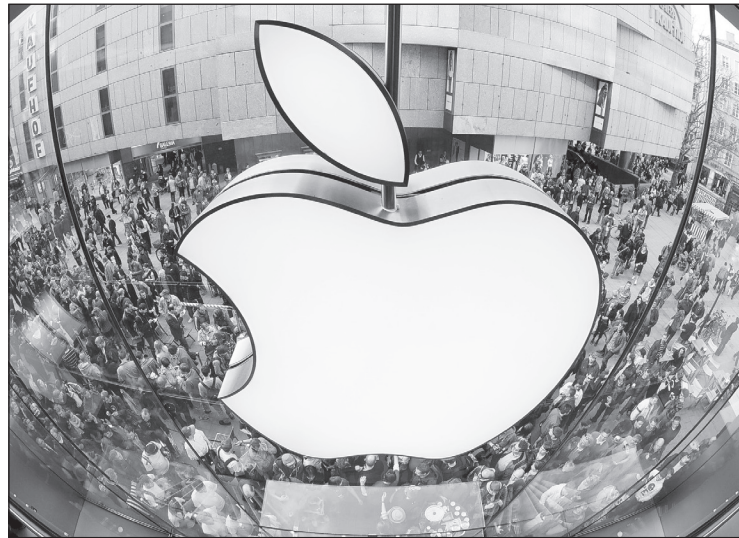
Apple's numbers are huge, with nearly \$30 billion in revenue in the latest quarter, for example. Yet Marshall said the 35-year-old company is "growing like a startup."

"Even in 2008 and 2009 Apple grew like a weed and the world was coming to an end," Marshall said.

Apple grew its net income 70 percent to \$14 billion and its revenue 52 percent to \$65 billion in the fiscal year that ended last

September. A year earlier, even as other companies — though not Exxon — were reeling from the eco-

nomic meltdown, Apple's earnings grew 35 percent and its revenue 14 percent. Apple wasn't always a tech darling. The company once known as Apple Computer Inc. was on a steep decline before Jobs returned in 1997.



In this March 25, 2011 file photo, customers wait outside the Apple store in Munich before the start of sales of the iPad2. Investors seem to think you want an iPad more than oil, as Apple Inc. became the most valuable company in the United States, surpassing Exxon Mobil Corp. on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2011.

AssociatedPress

With Jobs as CEO, Apple dreamed up gadgets that people didn't even think they needed until they got their hands on them — or saw friends and relatives with them.

There were music players, smartphones and tablet computers before Apple introduced the iPod, the iPhone and the iPad. But the Apple gadgets' sleek, minimalist design and intuitive software gave them a loyal following not just by tech geeks but the everyday consumers.

"Never underestimate the power of Joe Sixpack relative to expenditures on consumer electronics," Marshall said. People want their gadgets, especially those made by Apple, even in a recession and even as they watch their stock portfolios and retirement funds shrink.

Even so, Apple commands just a sliver of the overall smartphone and computer market. For that reason, Apple can grow at such a fast pace. "They have just a tremen-

terly earnings by any company, has limited prospects because its growth is tethered to oil prices and new oil discovery.

Apple's growth is limited only by innovation. Investors expect it to grow as long as it keeps making products that people want. So investors are betting on Apple's stock even though it currently makes less money than Exxon.

In its latest quarterly report, Apple said stronger iPhone and iPad sales helped more than double its net income to \$7.3 billion and grow revenue by 82 percent to \$29 billion.

Exxon, meanwhile, posted a 41 percent increase in its second-quarter earnings to nearly \$11 billion, the largest since it set a record of nearly \$15 billion in the third quarter of 2008. Its revenue grew 36 percent to \$125 billion.

International companies that vie for the most valuable spot include PetroChina Co., the publicly traded unit of China's biggest oil and gas company, and Petrobras, Brazil's state-controlled energy company.

In the U.S., Exxon and General Electric had been trading off the No. 1 and No. 2 spots until Microsoft surpassed them both in early 1999, at the height

of the dot-com boom. By 2000, though, GE was No. 1 once again. According to data from FactSet, the three were close over the next five years, though Apple was ascending quickly. Exxon, which is based in Irving, Texas, took the top spot in 2005 and remained there until Wednesday.

Apple, which is based in Cupertino, California, generally introduces a new product every three years,

which means something new in 2013. Marshall does not expect the company to slow down any time soon. In fact, he expects Apple to pass yet another milestone next year, when it's likely to surpass Hewlett-Packard Co. as the world's largest technology company by revenue. In the most recent quarter, HP reported \$32 billion in revenue, compared with Apple's \$29 billion in its latest quarter. □

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NEW THIS WEEK!

THE RISE OF PLANET OF THE APES
James Franco Freida Pinto
Mon - Thurs 2:20 / 4:45 / 7:10 / 9:35
Fri - Sat 2:20 / 4:45 / 7:10 / 9:35 / 11:55
Sun & Hol 2:20 / 4:45 / 7:10 / 9:35
With Spanish Subtitles
Mon - Thurs 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30
Fri 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30 / 10:50
Sat 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30 / 10:50
Sun & Hol 1:30 / 3:50 / 6:10 / 8:30

NEW THIS WEEK!

THE CHANGE-UP
Ryan Reynolds Jason Bateman
Mon - Thurs 2:05 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20
Fri - Sat 2:05 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20 / 11:45
Sun & Hol 2:05 / 4:30 / 6:55 / 9:20

GREEN LANTERN
Ryan Reynolds Blake Lively
3D With Spanish Subtitles
Mon - Thurs 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:20
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Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:25 / 6:50 / 9:20

Hank Azaria Neil Patrick Harris

THE SMURFS
3D With Spanish Subtitles
Mon - Thurs 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45
Fri - Sat 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45 / 11:00
Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:15 / 6:30 / 8:45

Jason Bateman Kevin Spacey

HORRIBLE BOSSES
Mon - Thurs 2:45 / 5:00 / 7:15 / 9:35
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Daniel Craig Harrison Ford

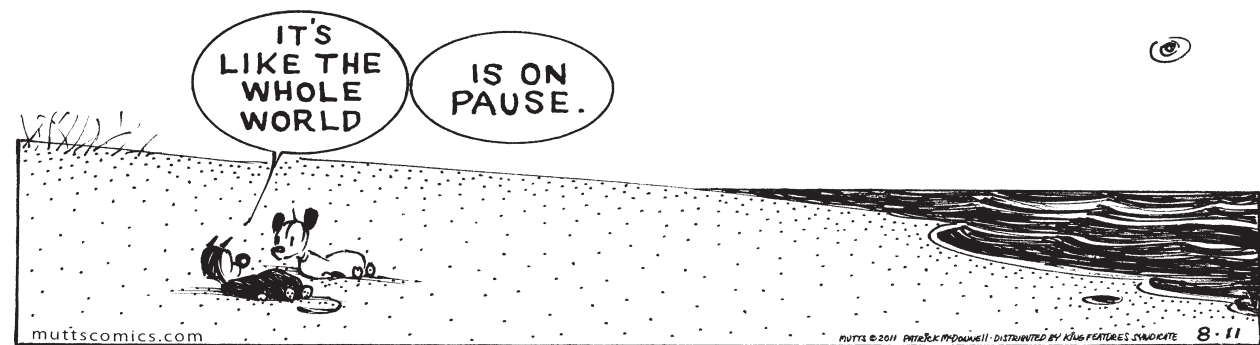
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Justin Timberlake Mila Kunis

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Mutts



6 Chix



Blondie



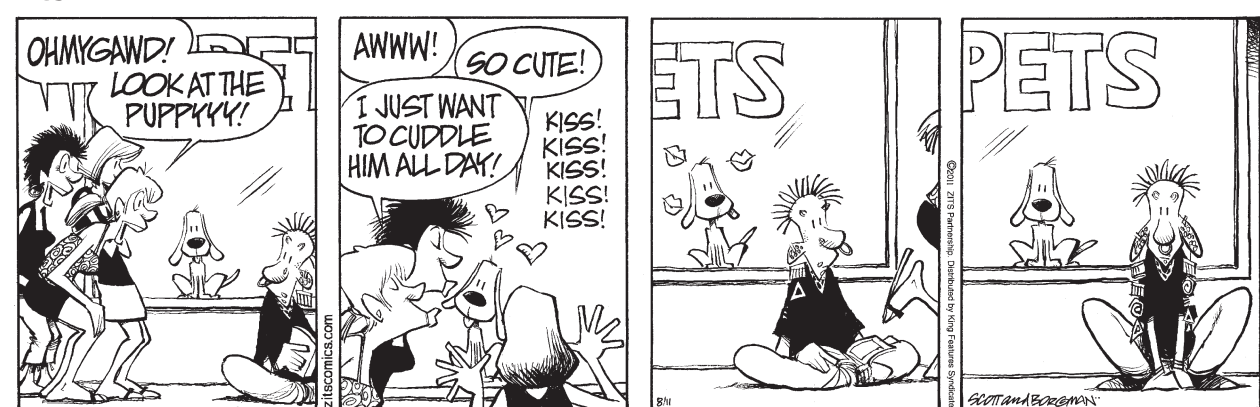
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

6				7			4
	4		1	2		5	3
	3						
4				1			5
	5					1	
	8		3				2
						7	
	9	5		8	1		6
7			4				8

Difficulty Level ★★

8/11

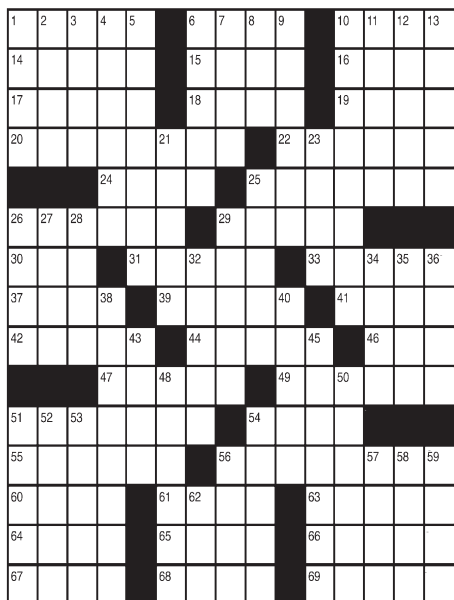
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

3	1	5	7	9	6	8	4	2
2	7	8	1	4	5	3	6	9
9	4	6	2	3	8	5	1	7
7	9	3	5	6	4	2	8	1
4	5	1	8	2	9	7	3	6
8	6	2	3	7	1	9	5	4
5	8	4	9	1	2	6	7	3
1	2	7	6	8	3	4	9	5
6	3	9	4	5	7	1	2	8

ACROSS

- Capital of Vietnam
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- "Old Glory"
- Take _; undo
- Venetian beach resort
- Greek liqueur
- Brink; threshold
- Boys
- Slimy film
- Snail on a plate
- Clothing
- _ a soul; nobody
- Many an AKC member
- Pressure cooker brand
- Purchaser
- Debtor's note
- Agog
- Sweethearts
- Accepted standard
- Invalidates
- Faucet problem
- _ for; signified
- Bonet and Kudrow
- Frozen water
- Sister's daughter
- _ together; united
- Actress _ Kerr
- Short letter
- Chooses
- Pathetic
- _ over; think about
- The "Iliad" or the "Odyssey"
- Archer's projectile
- Taking it easy
- _ up; form a queue
- Kid around with
- Observes
- Burn
- Lawn border trimming tool



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

8/11/11

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

BORE	MACAW	CLOD
UPON	ATONE	HIVE
NEST	CONGA	EVEN
KNEECAP	EVIDENT	
	RHO	BLEND
AGREE	PEA	TABLE
SHED	NFL	FEERIER
SAG	JOCULAR	BAA
ENAMOR	SAT	ELKS
SALON	WHY	OBESSE
	BAHAI	TWO
SMASHUP	TEENAGE	
HALT	MINIS	ILAY
URGE	ATILT	EVER
NEAR	NILLY	SALE

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8/11/11

DOWN

- _ at; attack
- King Kong's kin

- Drug agent
- Heart and liver
- Repeat
- Substance of 2 or more metals
- Italian auto
- Doesn't _ up; makes no sense
- Prayer beads
- Gave parental care to
- Clear; rational
- Sky blue
- TV's " _ Pyle"
- Response to a corny joke
- _ off; irritated
- Namesakes of actor/folk singer Ives
- Bowling targets
- Cheer
- Lira replacer
- Misrepresent
- Ravine
- Extremely dry
- Asian staple
- Went quickly
- Eyeglasses for one eye
- Wooden shoe
- Soil
- Fill completely
- Artists' stands
- Approached
- Namesakes of actress Moore
- Dodge adroitly
- Pretty woman at a ball
- More pleasant
- _ colada
- Boast
- Suffer defeat
- Pitcher
- Key lime _

ARUBA DREAM VACATIONS, N.V.

TROPICANA ARUBA RESORT & CASINO

WkS 51, 52 1BR
Sale \$4,000, Rent \$800
WkS 1 thru 15 1BR
Sale \$3,500, Rent \$800
WkS 16 thru 50 1BR
Sale \$2,000, Rent \$650

ARUBA BEACH CLUB

Wk 50, 1BR
Sale \$3,500, Rent \$600

CASA DEL MAR

Wk 36, Ambassador
Sale \$4,500, Rent \$600

DIVI PHOENIX

Wk 4 Studio*
Wk 8 Studio

Wk 9 1BR

LAQUINTA BEACH RESORT

WK 37, 1BR Sale
\$3,000, Rent \$600

WK 47, 1BR

Sale \$3,500, Rent \$600

PARADISE BEACH VILLAS

WK 1, \$12,995 2BR Pool
WK 2, \$12,995 2BR Pool
WK 4, \$12,995 2BR Pool

Wk 8 \$9,000 1BR Garden*

Wk 8 \$12,000 2BR Pool*

Wk 9 \$8,500 1BR Garden*

Wk 9 \$12,000 1BR Pool*
Wk 10, \$6,500 1BR
Garden

Wk 14, \$13,000 2BR Pool*

Wk 24 \$1,860 Studio
Wk 19, 3,15 1BR Garden

Wk 20, \$4,200 1BR Pool
Wk 31 \$1,920 1BR
(Even Yr.)

Wk 32 \$7,200 2BR Pool
Wk 38 \$6,600 2BR Pool
Wk 42 \$4,500 1BR Pool
Wk 45 \$11,000 2BR
Pool*

Wk 46 \$10,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 47 \$10,000 2BR Pool*
Wk 47 \$20,000
Penthouse*

Wk 48 \$10,000 2BR Pool*

OCCIDENTAL

WkS 2 -17, \$16,000
1BR OF Supreme Float
Wk 50 1BR \$9,000

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Prop. 1 Br units
wk 29 July 16 Rm 1326 sleeps 4
king bed queen sofa also wk 31
July 30 Rm 1134 \$2700 each + mf
and wk 33 mid Aug. Rm 1435
\$2500 call Aruba Beach Club
582-3000 Rm 126 until 8/5
E-mail rmwjmw@aol.com
508-651-0016

192221A

For Sale

Time Share for sale by owner
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studio Rm 128 king bed queen sofa
wk 35 sleeps 4 8/27 \$3900
Divi Phoenix ocean front Rm 705
wk 36 aprox 9/11
all amenities king bed queen sofa,
sleep 4 \$5400. Also La Cabana
Studio Rm 305 B wk 35 late Aug
sleep 4 \$2500 all +mf
E-mail rmwjmw@aol.com
508-651-0016

192221B

FOR RENT

Condo at Oceania
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Ocean view
3rd Floor
3 swimming pools
Elevator, Gym, Internet,
Cable TV, Landscaped garden
\$2750 per month (excluding
utilities)
Tel. 734-4750 or
werner@mparuba.com
Pictures at
www.oranjestad.be

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FOR RENT

Executive Apartment
Wacamaya Rooi Santo Noord
1st Floor
1 bed room apartment
Fully furnished, swimming pool
Landscaped garden
\$1300 per month
(excluding utilities)
Tel. 734-4750
werner@mparuba.com

104039

Aruba TODAY

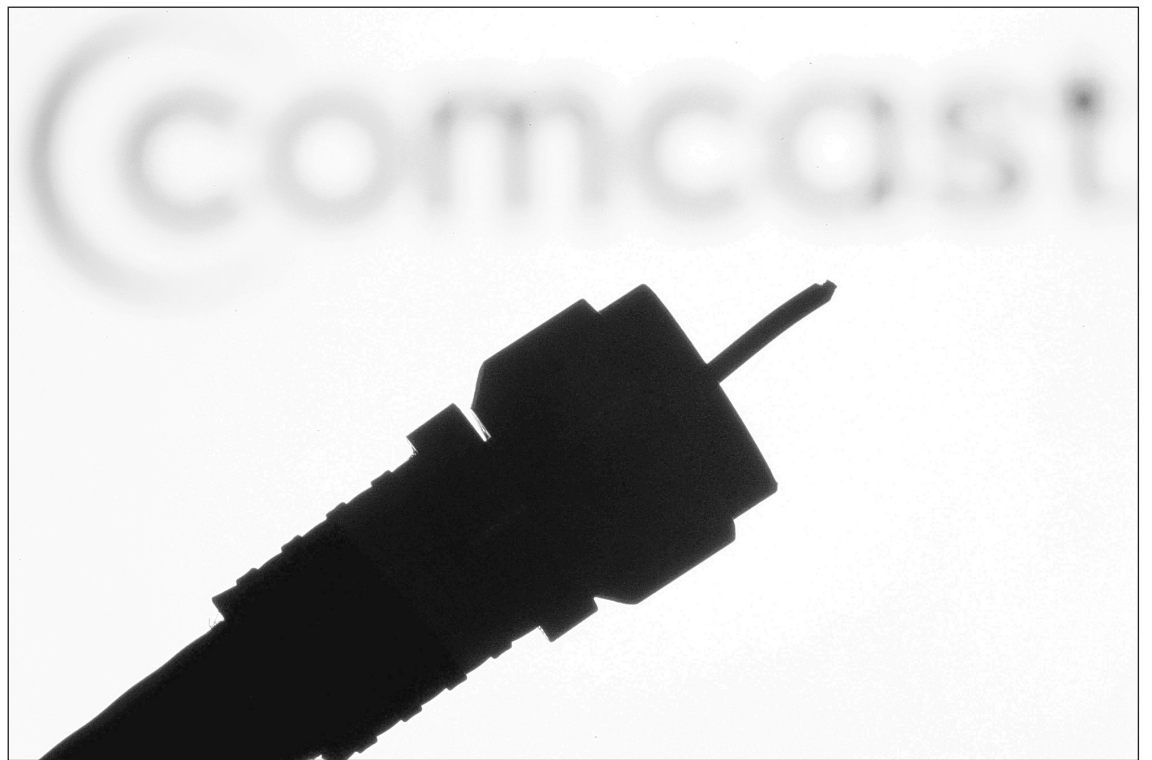
IF YOU LOVE YOUR
CHILD
SAY



NO TO CHILD ABUSE
USE YOUR CARSEAT

BON DIA Aruba

Pay TV industry loses record number of subscribers



By PETER SVENSSON
AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—The weak economy is hitting Americans where they spend a lot of their free time: at the TV set.

They're canceling or forgoing cable and satellite TV subscriptions in record numbers, according to an analysis by The Associated Press of the companies' quarterly earnings reports.

The U.S. subscription-TV industry first showed a small net loss of subscribers a year ago. This year, that trickle has turned into a stream. The chief cause appears to be persistently high unemployment and a housing market that has many people living with their parents, reducing the need for a separate cable bill.

But it's also possible that people are canceling cable, or never signing up in the first place, because they're watching cheap Internet video. Such a threat has been hanging over the industry. If that's the case, viewers can expect more restrictions on online video, as TV companies and Hollywood studios try to make sure that they get paid for what they produce.

In a tally by the AP, eight of the nine largest subscription-TV providers in the U.S. lost 195,700 subscribers in the April-to-June quarter.

That's the first quarterly loss for the group, which serves about 70 percent of households. The loss amounts to 0.2 percent of their 83.2 million video subscribers.

The group includes four of the five biggest cable companies, which have been losing subscribers for years. It also includes phone companies Verizon Communications Inc. and AT&T Inc. and satellite broadcasters DirecTV Group Inc. and Dish Network Corp. These four have been poaching customers from cable, making up for cable-company losses — until now.

The phone companies kept adding subscribers in the second quarter, but Dish lost 135,000. DirecTV gained a small number, so combined, the U.S. satellite broadcasters lost subscribers in the quarter — a first for the industry.

The AP's tally excludes Cox Communications, the third-largest cable company, and a bevy of smaller cable companies. Cox is privately held and does not disclose subscriber numbers.

Sanford Bernstein analyst Craig Moffett estimates that the subscription-TV industry, including the untallied cable companies, lost 380,000 subscribers in the quarter. That's about one out of every 300 U.S. households, and more than twice

the losses in the second quarter of last year. Ian Olgeirson at SNL Kagan puts the number even higher, at 425,000 to 450,000 lost subscribers.

The second quarter is always the year's worst for cable and satellite companies, as students cancel service at the end of the spring semester. Last year, growth came back in the fourth quarter. But looking back over the past 12 months, the industry is still down, by Moffett's estimate. That's also a first.

The subscription-TV industry is no longer buoyed by its first flush of growth, so the people who cancel because they're unemployed are outweighing the very small number of newcomers who've never had cable or satellite before. Dish CEO Joe Clayton told analysts on a conference call Tuesday that the industry is "increasingly saturated."

But like other industry executives, Clayton sees renewed growth around the corner. Though his company saw the biggest increase in subscriber flight compared with a year ago, he blamed much of that on a strategic pullback in advertising, which will be reversed before the end of the year.

Other executives gave few indications that the industry has hit a wall. □

[illegible]

Sarah Palin has new granddaughter, Kyla Grace

By RACHEL D'ORO

Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska (AP)

— Sarah Palin is a grandmother again.

Kyla Grace Palin was born Saturday to Palin's eldest son, 22-year-old Track Palin, and his new wife, 21-year-old Britta Hanson.

Hanson's mother, Elizabeth Hanson, confirmed the birth and told The Associated Press that the baby girl is "exquisite." At birth, the littlest Palin weighed in at 6 pounds, 15 ounces, according to the maternal grandmother.

"She's adorable," she said Wednesday, adding that the family is doing well. "We're all extremely excited about her arrival."

Sarah Palin, a former Alaska governor and the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee, is mulling a possible run for the presidency in 2012. She has not made a public comment about the new addition to the family. Track Palin and Britta Hanson were high-school sweethearts. They married three months ago at Hatcher Pass, a scenic mountain pass not far from Sarah Palin's Wasilla home.

"Yes, they did & we couldn't be any more blessed!" Sarah Palin tweeted on May 19.

Britta Hanson's father is the Rev. Duane Hanson, pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Wasilla.

Track Palin is an Army re-



FILE - In this recent but undated photo provided by the Palin family, Track Palin, third from right, is seen with his new bride Britta Hanson, third from left, and her parents, Duane and Elizabeth Hanson, left, and his parents, Sarah and Todd Palin, right, after their wedding ceremony in Hatcher Pass, Alaska. On Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011, Britta Palin gave birth to a baby girl.

(AP Photo/Palin family)

she spoke at her son's deployment ceremony in Fairbanks.

Track Palin joined the Army on the sixth anniversary of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Hanson is a University of Alaska nursing student.

Sarah Palin and her husband, Todd, have four other children. Their other grandchild is Tripp, who was born to then 18-year-old Bristol Palin, an unwed mother who launched an abstinence campaign soon after giving birth in December 2008.

Bristol Palin, now 20, and the boy's father, Levi Johnston, are no longer together.

Her pregnancy at age 17 was announced days after Sen. John McCain picked her mother to be his running mate. □

TBS canceling comic George Lopez's talk show

By LYNN ELBER

AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — George Lopez, who surrendered his TBS time slot to Conan O'Brien and then saw ratings for "Lopez Tonight" slide, got a cancellation notice Wednesday. Lopez's Thursday show at midnight will be the final one, the cable network said in a statement.

"TBS has reached the difficult decision not to order a third season of 'Lopez Tonight,'" the network said, adding that it was proud to have worked with the "immensely talented comedian and entertainer."

TBS declined further comment. The decision was based not only on ratings but also the cost of the show, according to a person familiar with the production, who spoke on condition of anonymity because TBS hadn't authorized public comment.

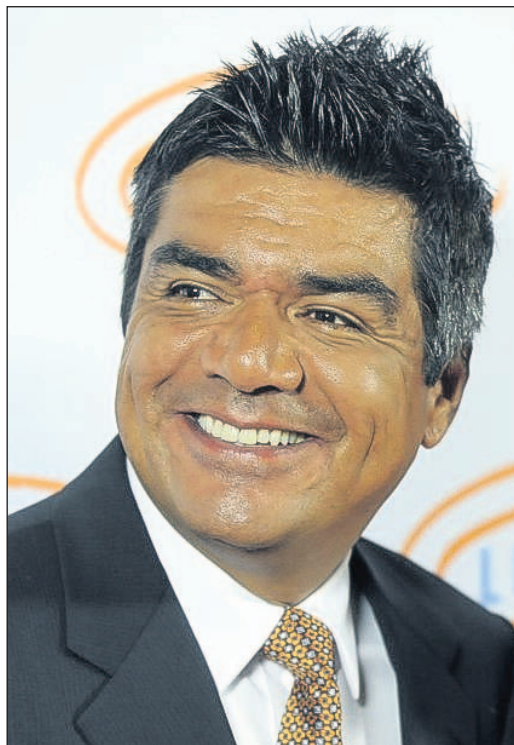
A call to Lopez's representatives was not immediately returned.

The comic gave up his 11 p.m. ET time slot to make room for O'Brien, who joined TBS after leaving NBC's "Tonight" over a time-slot dispute that ended up reinstating Jay Leno as "Tonight" host.

The plan for TBS was to have a one-two punch of late-night shows that would particularly appeal to young viewers, but the results have been unimpressive and the cancellation unsurprising, said media analyst Brad Adgate of Horizon Media.

"The only positive was a young median age" of about 32, Adgate said, which is part of the younger adult audience favored by advertisers. Lopez was among the rare minority entertainers to get a shot at a late-night show, with Arsenio Hall and Wanda Sykes also in the group. Late-night hosts are uniformly white and male, including O'Brien, Leno, David Letterman, Craig Ferguson, Jimmy Fallon and Jimmy Kimmel.

Neither Lopez nor O'Brien has been covered in ratings glory since TBS made its bold move to snare the former broadcast network star.



FILE - In this May 6, 2010 file photo, TV personality George Lopez arrives at the 10th Annual Lupus LA Orange Ball in Beverly Hills, Calif. The TBS network is canceling George Lopez's nightly talk show. The network says Lopez's Thursday night show on Aug. 11, 2011, will be the final one. "Lopez Tonight" is in its second season.

(AP Photo/Chris Pizzello, file)

Lopez's total viewership dropped 40 percent in its second year, from an average of 910,000 nightly viewers at 11 p.m. ET to 543,000 at midnight. In August, the audience has dropped to 391,000.

"Conan" has been drawing slightly more than 1 million viewers for the season, just 13 percent higher than Lopez did in his first year, Adgate said, citing Nielsen Co. figures.

For the first part of August, "Conan" is averaging 709,000 nightly viewers. During its debut month, November 2010, O'Brien's show had about 2 million nightly viewers. □

Producer says Jennifer Lopez will return to 'Idol'

NEW YORK (AP)

— An executive producer of the hit musical reality TV show "American Idol" says celebrity judge Jennifer Lopez will return for another season.

Lopez hasn't said anything. But executive producer Nigel Lythgoe was on the "On-Air with Ryan Seacrest" program on Wednesday morning and made the announcement. He acknowledged it wasn't official. But he added he was "delighted to say that all three judges" and the show's "brilliant host" are back for the next season.

Seacrest is the show's host. Singer-actress Lopez debuted as a judge this past season. The other judges are Aerosmith rocker Steven Tyler and record producer Randy Jackson.

"American Idol" is due to return to Fox television in January for its 11th season. □



FILE - In this May 25, 2011 file photo, actress and singer Jennifer Lopez arrives at the American Idol Finale in Los Angeles. An executive producer for "American Idol" announced that Lopez will return as a judge for another season of the reality singing competition series.

(AP Photo/Matt Sayles, file)

Franklin excited to sing at MLK statue dedication

NEW YORK (AP) — When a young Aretha Franklin accompanied the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. to churches in the early days of the civil rights movement, he usually made a special request for her to sing one song in particular: "Take My Hand, Precious Lord."

On Aug. 28, when a memorial in his honor is dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, Franklin will again sing the song for her mentor and friend.

"I'm really looking forward to this moment.

It's going to be another great, great moment in American history, and in

African-American history," Franklin said in a phone interview Tuesday.

"It means as well, after so many years of traveling with him in the early '60s at the advent of the civil rights movement, that again, many years later, I would perform in his honor and in tribute to him, and I'm really looking forward to that moment and singing one of his favorite songs, his most requested song by me," she said.

Franklin, 69, was one of the early supporters of the campaign to honor the civil rights hero with a statue in the nation's capital. She

even headlined an all-star concert at Radio City Music Hall in New York City in 2007 to raise funds for the memorial, which has been years in the making.

"I just think that it is a nod to how far we have come, and what a tremendous spot for him to be him, between the Lincoln Memorial and the Jefferson Memorial on the mall. We've come a long way," she said. "I think it's tremendous."

President Barack Obama, Stevie Wonder, Maya Angelou and many more are expected to participate in the dedication ceremony. □



Aretha Franklin is shown in Philadelphia. Franklin will sing at a memorial dedication to the late civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. on Aug. 28, 2011, on the National Mall in Washington. (AP Photo/Matt Rourke, file)

Madonna's daughter Lola discusses fashion line

NEW YORK (AP) — Even though she's got her own fashion line, Lourdes Leon — better known to the masses as Lola, the daughter of Madonna — admits that she had a lot to learn when she first launched the Material Girl brand. "It was really hard at first because I didn't know what I was doing," Lola, dressed in a tank top and jean cutoffs, said in a recent interview. "I was like, 'You know, not a lot of people wear this. Let me just wear it.' It wasn't even that it looked good on me. I was just like, 'Let me do this because not a lot of people are doing it.' Now I feel like I can follow fashion a lot better than I used to, but also have some of my own take on it." Her learning curve is understandable: After all, she's just 14. But she's already a fashion star with Material Girl, which is geared toward teens and sold at Macy's Inc. stores.

The line, which she launched with her mother last year, is now branching out into cosmetics, undergarments and nail polish. Through laughs and typical teenager banter, Lola talked about her vision for Material Girl, her mom and fashion dos and don'ts. AP: It's been a year since your

clothing line launched. What have you learned about fashion over the past 12 months? Lola: I learned a lot of things that I shouldn't wear or do. Like don't wear white to school, because

then stuff gets dirty really fast. I don't think you should wear shorts that are too small and I don't think you should wear shorts that are too big either because I find myself looking really

awkward. It takes me a really long time to find the perfect pair of shorts. I like the ones you can pull up to your bellybutton almost, which makes it look extra weird and retro. AP: Your mom once told me that the two of you don't always agree on designs. Lola: Absolutely. Every day. ... I will be like, "Mom, you can't wear that." Or she will be like, "Lola, you can't wear that." A lot of the time we don't listen to each other, but sometimes we do. AP: When it comes to designing Material Girl, who wins out? Lola: Me. I have to tell her, "Mom, it is the in thing. This is what kids are doing now. If you don't do this, then it is going to suck." And then she usually gives in. AP: Do you go to your mom's closet for inspiration? Lola: Her closet is huge.

All the time. I am always in there and if no one knows where I am in the house, it is usually my mom's closet and I am usually taking something without asking her. She gets mad at me. AP: How does it feel to have a clothing line at such a young age? Lola: It is really cool, and also it is a lot of fun to know that my friends enjoy it, and to know that a lot of people enjoy it because it is also a lot of what

I like. My friends have great style. I go to an arts school, so a lot of them are really artistic and passionate about a lot of things that inspire what they wear. AP: Advice time. What is your idea of a fashion faux pas? Lola: Don't wear white. I am all for crop tops, but I don't like it when people wear crop tops that are excessively cropped. Really, don't be a skank with your crop top. I think boots are always a "go-to," no matter what you are wearing, but you always have to make sure they don't cut off your leg because that is not right. When you are wearing heels, it is more comfortable to walk in platforms. Platforms always look good and they are more comfortable to wear and they make you look way taller. I used to do this a lot, but the hippie bands around your head are very out. Don't ever wear that again. AP: Your line has expanded to include nail polish and undergarments. What is your ultimate vision for the collection? Lola: I think it has continued to evolve and now it is at a point where we have so much stuff that I use and that I think other people will really enjoy using, so I like it. □



In this Aug. 2, 2011, publicity image released by Material Girl, Lourdes "Lola" Leon, the daughter of pop star Madonna, is shown at the launch of the Material Girl beauty collection in New York. Lourdes, who teamed up with her mother to launch the clothing line named after the popular 80's song, is now expanding to include cosmetics and skin care products. The beauty collection, which is geared towards teens, is available at Macy's.

(AP Photo/Material Girl)

Withholder in Chief



MAUREEN DOWD

© 2011 New York Times

DES MOINES, Iowa – Even the Butter Cow at the Iowa State Fair is not enough to sweeten the mood.

Three years ago, Barack Obama's unlikely presidential dream was given wings by rapturous Iowans – young, old and in-between – who saw in the fresh-faced, silky-voiced black senator a chance to leap past the bellicose, rancorous Bush years into a modern, competitive future where we once more had luster in the world.

"We are choosing hope over fear," Obama told a delirious crowd of 3,000 here the night he won the Iowa caucuses.

But fear has garroted hope, as America reels from the latest humiliating blows on the economy and in Afghanistan. The politician who came across as a redeemer in 2008 is now in need of redemption himself.

Faced with a country keening for reassurance and reinvention, Obama seems at a loss. Regarding his political skills, he turns out to be the odd case of a pragmatist who can't learn from his mistakes and adapt.

Many of his Democratic supporters here, who once waited hours in line just to catch a glimpse of The One, are disillusioned. "We just wish he'd be more of a fighter," said one influential Democrat with a grimace.

Another agreed: "You can't blame him for everything.

I just wish he would come across more forceful at times, but that is not the dude's style. Detached hurts you when things are sour. You need some of Clinton's 'I feel your pain' compassion." The president has been so spectacularly unable to fill the leadership void in Washington that the high-spirited Michele Bachmann feels free to purloin Obama's old mantra.

"The power behind our campaign is hope and a future," she chirped to a sparse

crowd Monday in Atlantic, Iowa.

"That's all I believe in." That and making America safe for old-fashioned light bulbs and not those weird curly ones. Obama's response on Monday to Friday's Standard & Poor's downgrade and to the 22 Navy SEAL commandos and eight other soldiers killed by a Taliban rocket-propelled grenade in Afghanistan was once more too little, too late. It was just like his belated, ineffectual response on the BP oil spill and his reaction to the would-be Christmas Day bomber; it took him three days on vacation in Hawaii to speak about the terrorist incident when the country was scared about national security, and then he spent the next week callously shuttling from the podium to the golf course. Bachmann has been riding around Iowa in her bus, with Elvis music and her name emblazoned 25 times on the outside, mocking Obama for going to Camp David last weekend and burrowing in, while the country was roiling. His inability to grab a microphone and spontaneously assuage Americans' fears is strange.

If the U.S. servicemen had died on a Monday, he wouldn't have waited until Wednesday to talk about it.

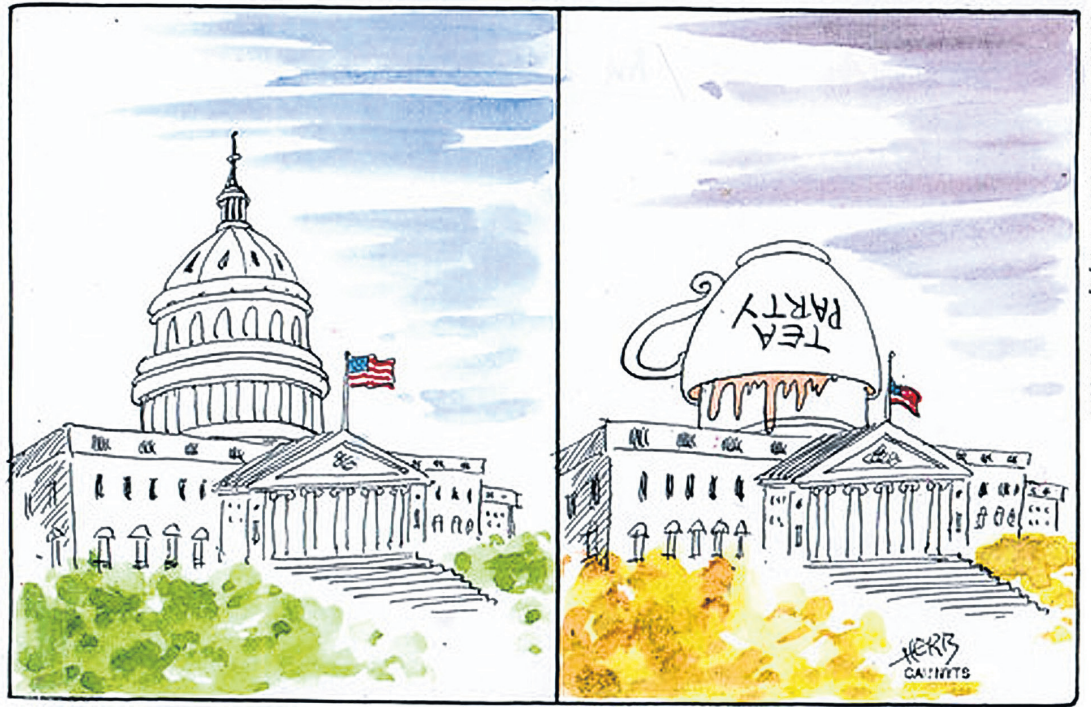
He doesn't like the bully pulpit, just the professor's lectern.

After failing to interrupt his Camp David weekend to buck up the country on one of its worst days in history, he tacked on his condolences for the soldiers' families to his economic pep talk, in what had to be the most inept oratorical segue of his presidency.

He long ago should have gone out into the country to talk to Americans in person and come up with a concrete plan that people could print out from the White House website and study.

Hasn't he learned how dangerous it is to delegate to Congress? His withholding and reactive nature has made him seem strangely irrelevant in Washington, trapped by his own temperament.

He doesn't lead, and he doesn't understand why we don't feel led. Speaking from the State Dining Room of the White House, he advised America it was still "a triple-A country" like some cerebral soccer coach urging the kids to win one for the London Interbank Offered Rate. □



Cartoonists International: www.nytimes.com/cartoons

Mitt Romney's vanishing act

FRANK BRUNI

© 2011 New York Times

PELLA, Iowa – If the Iowa Republican debate were to provide a truly accurate mirror of the race at this juncture, Tim Pawlenty would wear a sandwich board, with a scrawled plea to the state's voters: "Save me." Michele Bachmann would spin onto the stage in a giant teacup, to find a microphone three times the size of anyone else's and a spotlight four times as bright. Newt Gingrich, looking characteristically put out, would unveil a new campaign slogan: "The Glow-er for This Hour." And the party's most likely nominee, Mitt Romney? He wouldn't show. The less seen of him, after all, the better. That's not my harsh assessment. That's been his de facto campaign strategy this summer. His curious absence through the debt-ceiling showdown even set off a spirited name game in the news media, with different scribes lofting different sobriquets: the missing Mormon, the phantom front-runner and (courtesy of Ben Smith of Politico) a denizen of the Mittness Protection Program. Couple his low profile with his history of reinvention and you wind up with a candidate who campaigns in disappearing ink. It's tough to get a read on him, and he leaves no strong impression.

He did, in fact, emerge from Mittness Protection and materialize (or is that Mitterialize?) in Iowa on Wednesday, in advance of the debate, which he will actually attend. But he'll leave before the straw poll on Saturday. Now you see him. Now you don't.

I saw him midday here in Pel-

la, where he took a seat at a drab conference table in a drab conference room for a meeting with about a dozen local business leaders. There was no campaign regalia, no boldly colored backdrop, nothing to draw or hold the eye. "Looks like I get a microphone," he said, noting the instrument before him. "But I'm not planning on saying much." Over the ensuing hour, as the business leaders bemoaned the economy, he did a lot of listening and nodding, punctuated with such measured words in such a mild voice that it was possible to register only his teeth, tan and dangling forelock. Assuming you eluded slumber. Can Romney get all the way to the White House like this? There's still plenty of time for him to step it up, but, for now, he is doing something risky and remarkable: asking people to vote for him while encouraging them to look away. The case he's making is more anti-Obama than pro-Romney, and it's only when he's bashing the president that his words catch fire, or his ember-like approximation of it. He personifies the Republican bind in 2012. Party leaders believe (with excellent reason) that Obama is eminently beatable, yet they're fretful (as they should be) that they're squandering that opportunity with a field of candidates too weak for the task. Rick Perry doesn't really change that. His record in Texas is more complicated and less flattering than the bonanza of job creation he and his supporters extol, and he may be a Texan too soon with a political orientation too conservative for a

country still shaking off George W. Bush. The attention lavished on him over recent days suggests Republicans' yearning for someone to swoop in and save the day. This yearning has even bequeathed poetry, with Bill Kristol penning sonnets of sorts to politicians he wishes would run. Following up on a Chris Christie poem he published in March, Kristol used the most recent issue of The Weekly Standard for an ode to the likes of Paul Ryan, Marco Rubio and Jeb Bush. "At our back we all now hear/ Time's winged chariot hurrying near," he wrote, referring either to the few months left to get into the race or to "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang." It wasn't clear. He further implored the resisters to "manfully embrace your fate/ and boldly be a candidate." That he didn't say "womanfully" suggests a prudent change of heart. Kristol helped foist Sarah Palin on the world. Suddenly she's en route to Iowa, endlessly teasing out the mystery of her intentions. As for Romney, his comportment on Wednesday was less manful than muted, less bold than bland. He seemed to be running for management consultant in chief. "Wouldn't it be nice," he asked the business leaders, "if people in Washington actually spent a part of their career working in the real economy?" When someone responded that it should be a prerequisite, he said, "If that's the case, then I'm in." He'll need a more rousing argument, starting with the debate, for which I offer this couplet of counsel: "Find your passion and some will/Lest Chitty turn you to road kill." □

Meter plan links gas pedal to wallets



In the Netherlands

ELISABETH ROSENTHAL

© 2011 New York Times

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands

— Governments in car-clogged regions of Europe, Asia and even the United States have shown an eagerness to explore systems that charge drivers a fee for the miles they drive.

In the Netherlands, where by some accounts residents have the highest average commuting time in Europe and a reputation for receptivity to environmental innovation, the government had planned to institute a nationwide system next year. But the plan was shelved when a new government came to power in 2010.

Two years ago, the country set up a trial of the system, outfitting cars with a meter that, while hooked up to the Internet and GPS wirelessly, tabulated a charge for each car trip by using a mileage-based formula that also takes account of a car's fuel efficiency, the time of day and the route. (Driving on busier thoroughfares costs more than driving on less-traveled roads.) The meter also factored in the cost to society in the form of pollution, traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and wear and tear on roads. At the end of each month, the vehicle's owner

would receive a bill detailing times and costs of usage, although participants in the trial did not have to pay the charges.

Even in environmentally conscious places like the Netherlands, voters and politicians often vehemently oppose such programs, citing privacy concerns about the monitoring of drivers' whereabouts and the introduction of a new type of tax.

Supporters of the meters contend that the charges are more equitable than current taxes like automobile purchase and registration fees because they derive from actual use rather than mere ownership. If imposed, they could supplant gas and vehicle taxes as well as tolls. Distance charging also provides a means of replacing declining revenues from gasoline taxes as more people drive highly efficient hybrid or electric cars.

Equally important, studies have found that the meters provide instantaneous negative feedback, the kind that psychologists say changes behavior.

In the United States, states including Oregon, Texas and Minnesota have explored mileage-charging systems, but the first tentative proposals have faced obstacles there as well. □

For décolletage, special care

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Back when Lisa Barr wore a size 34B bra, she didn't know about cleavage wrinkles. But soon after she got breast implants in 1999, augmenting her measurements to a 36C, she started waking up with thick lines on her chest where one breast had fallen against the other as she slept on her side.

"The wrinkles would stay even when I was getting dressed," said Barr, 40, a litigation paralegal in Rochester. Nor did they diminish as the day progressed. She could not help wondering why she had gotten the implants if she was going to have to cover the areas around and above them.

The skin just below the neck can reveal a woman's age and skin-care history just as easily as her hands can. Cleavage wrinkles are deep, vertical creases caused by hours spent sleeping on one's side, where gravity forces the



top breast to bend farther past the body's midline than it should. The lines can also be caused by sports and push-up bras, which squash the breasts together and are often worn for hours.

Once the collagen in skin breaks down from age and sun exposure, those wrinkles tend to linger. And thanks to gravity, the generously endowed — whether naturally or surgically — tend to be more afflicted.

"It is definitely something women complain about," Dr. Tiffany Grunwald, a plastic surgeon in Santa Monica, Calif., wrote in an



email. "Most of what we have to offer is skin care to try and plump up the skin. Unfortunately, there is not a good place to hide the scar from a 'chest lift' so we don't do that."

Barr tried applying moisturizer and vitamin E to her chest, and sleeping with a pair of socks between her breasts to keep them separated, but the socks would not stay in place. Then she found the Kush Support (\$19.99), a contoured plastic cylinder that is "firm enough to support the breasts yet light enough you won't feel it's there," said its inventor, Cathinka Chandler, 42. The device is placed between the breasts at night.

"When I got it, I thought, there's no way this is going to work," Barr said. "It didn't even weigh two ounces." She tried it anyway. Within a few weeks, she said, both she and her boyfriend saw a reduction in lines on her chest. Cleavage wrinkles had bothered Rachel de Boer, too. A former flight attendant who lives in Amstelveen, the Netherlands, de Boer, 50, noticed the

lines on her chest in her 30s. Her solution was to invent La Decollette (about \$73 from decollette.co.uk). It looks like a sports bra worn backward: a supportive racer-back swath of fabric — cotton or Lycra, in black, white or animal prints — is in the front.

The cleavage wrinkles problem is also being tackled close to Los Angeles, the unofficial capital of breast implants. Sheena Seegraves, who lives in Riverside, Calif., was 23 and a customer-service representative for a propane company when she noticed that her older female relatives had distressed décolletages. She created the ChestSaver bra (\$56 to \$78) to prevent them. The product resembles La Decollette, except that its cleavage panel is a swath of lace-covered fleece that comes with a removable foam insert, so that the garment will not absorb any moisturizer that may be on the chest. It comes in several styles, including one with cording-lined cups to wear during the day. □